

LEGEND & STORY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

114

HASTINGS, INEZ

INTERVIEW

9820

Field worker's name Robert H. Beaman

This report made on (date) January 27 1938

1. This legend was secured from (name) Inez Hastings,

Address Route #1, Washington, Oklahoma

This person is (male or female) White, Negro, Indian,

If Indian, give tribe _____

2. Origin and history of legend or story _____

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached _____

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Robert H. Boatman,
Investigator,
January 27, 1938.

An Interview with Mrs. Inez Hastings,
R. 1, Washington, Oklahoma.

I was born May 20, 1876, in Kentucky. In 1878, my parents moved from Kentucky to Kansas, but only stayed one year, then moved to Arkansas where we remained until I was thirteen years old.

I came to the opening of Old Oklahoma in 1889, my first trip to the Indian country. People were then gathered all along the line up and down as far as a person could see to await the day of the signal to enter and stake claims. Many people were gathered along the line for several days before they could enter and were in every conceivable way—in wagons, on foot, horseback and in buggies.

At twelve o'clock a cannon was fired as a signal for them to go. Such a rush could never be fully described. Many people were just run down and trampled over and the passer went on about his business. No respect was paid to any other one in regard to his position. It was just a wild fray of people, horses and wagons with flags flying

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and men and women yelling to their teams or mounts in urging them ahead. Everyone seemed in a mad rush for life. We made the run from the line of Arkansas and this was the greatest experience in my life, though to my father's disgust, we were out distanced and were too late to stake any claim that was worthwhile. As we came along there appeared to be a flag on nearly every ten acres of land in all the whole country.

However, we were determined to try our fortune in the wilds of the country and, after several days of just wandering around, we finally settled in the old Choctaw Nation, near where the town of Caddo now is located. People lived in tents, dugouts and many families just set up housekeeping in covered wagons. My father built a rude house of logs as a first home and the furniture consisted of only a few possessions that had been brought along in the removal from the old state.

One store at Old Caddo and one at Old Boggy Depot were the only trading points. Boggy Depot was located several miles from Caddo, on Boggy Creek and has long been discontinued, though Caddo still remains and has made a very

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thriving little town. There were many arguments and disputes in regard to the establishment of certain claims staked during the run and a bitter feeling existed among certain people for several months in regard to this matter.

After we had fully settled we entered into the business of farming. The principal crops were wheat and corn and it was a very hard undertaking, for the products had to be hauled several miles to some market and then sold at a price which was very low. Corn sold at from 10 to 18 cents per bushel. Wheat at from 40 to 50 cents per bushel. Progress was very slow, though sure to come.

After I had grown up I was married to a Mr. Hastings, who homesteaded 160 acres of land three and one-half miles west of the town of Washington now in McClain County and here I have lived since. Mr. Hastings passed away some years ago but here at my home, which with many hardships I have earned, I will remain.