

INDEX CARDS:

Old Oklahoma
Surveying.
Dugout Home
Reno City
Freighters
Living Conditions

BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Mrs. Nora Lorrain, El Reno, Oklahoma

This report made on (date) June 1, 1937

1. Name Mrs. Inez Hulbert,

2. Post Office Address El Reno, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 221 North Rock Island Street

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 11 Year 1865

5. Place of Birth Near Fort Scott, Kansas, Burben County.

6. Name of Father Sam Goff Place of birth Illinois

Other information about father Died on his claim in 1912.

7. Name of Mother Martha (Williams) Hulbert Place of birth Illinois

Other information about mother Died in

Burben County, Kansas.

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 8.

Mrs. Inez Hulbert was born near Fort Scott, Kansas, December 11, 1865, in Barber County.

Her father was Sam Goff and her mother's maiden name was Martha Williams. Both her father and mother were born in Illinois. She also had a brother born in Fort Scott, Kansas, in 1885.

She was married at Fort Scott, Kansas, on February 25, 1885, and was the mother of three children; Ada^{who} was born at Fort Scott, and Sam and Vera, who were born at Caldwell, Kansas, where the family was located for three years prior to their coming to Oklahoma.

Her father and her husband came to Oklahoma for the original run of April 22, 1889, but did not make the run. Both her father and husband were working for some surveyors, and discovered two claims with vacant numbers which had not been filed on. ~~These farms were adjoining and the soldiers held a declaratory on all land for six months and when this time was up, these farms still had not been taken, so Mr. Goff and Mr. Hulbert filed, each securing 160 acres of raw prairie land, not a tree or bush on either place, just grass.~~

They went back to Caldwell to get their families, and came overland in covered wagons (three of them). Harry

2

Goff, a brother, drove one wagon, her husband drove one and she and the children drove the "chuck" wagon, which was filled with bedding, cooking utensils, food, etc.

They arrived at the claims on September 19, 1889. The first night they camped in a tent on the Canadian River, then they drove out to the claim, which was located three miles north and five miles east of El Reno, and they hunted up the corner numbers and set up their tents.

The first thing they did was to mow some prairie hay, with a mower they had brought with them. They put up enough prairie hay to last their stock all winter. They also built a dugout right away, an honest-to-goodness dugout, not one of the half and half affairs. It had a half window in the door, and that was all the light there was except for the coal oil lamp. It was warm and comfortable in the dugout, not requiring a great deal of heat to keep warm.

They obtained their drinking water across the road from a family that had settled there before they came, and had already got their well dug. The day after they arrived they discovered a spring on the west line, a half mile from where they had camped, which furnished water for their stock.

3

They had brought with them their furniture, a cook stove, beds, and some chairs and they often popped corn on their cook stoves.

She and her husband had two teams and three cows when they came here but one of the cows soon died. They also had a few chickens.

There were plenty of Indians when she came here but they saw little of these Indians except when they came to Reno City, which was located across the river north of the present Canadian bridge, two miles north of El Reno. Her daughters, Ada and Vera, each had a bright red sun-bonnet, which they always wore to town and they drew a lot of admiring glances from the Indian squaws. The girls could not tell what the squaws were saying, but their admiration was quite evident.

Mrs. Hulbert states that her father and her husband, both, hauled freight from Caldwell, Kansas, to Fort Reno, for three or four years. They hauled for Jack Evans and also for a Mr. Covington (son-in-law of Brinton Darlington). The round trip took them about eight days.

Before they came to Oklahoma her father and her brother hauled freight back and forth between Reno City and Oklahoma City which was at that time only a very small trading point.

4

Her husband dug a well in the northeast corner of their claim and built a 12 by 14 foot one-room house, and they moved into it after having lived in the dugout for about nine months. The children were not old enough to go to school when they came here, and it was two or three years before they went to school. The neighbors got together and built a sod school house, and this old soddy was used for school, dancing, church, Sunday school and all other social affairs. It was located on the northwest corner of the (present) Eastwood place about eight miles northeast of El Reno. The first school out there was a subscription school.

Shortly after they settled on their claim (in the first winter), they looked out across the prairie and saw four or five wagons coming loaded down with something, they did not know what. The nearest train point was Kingfisher and they were coming from that direction. Later they learned that a Mr. D. B. Shaw had wrecked his house at Caldwell, Kansas, and was hauling it to his homestead on wagons, ^{had} the train having a hand in the removal. It was a three-roomed house and he set it up on his claim and filled and packed the space between the walls with dirt to make it warm. A few years later the Hulberts bought

5

the farm from Mr. Shaw and they had just got it nicely renovated and papered when it was wrecked by a cyclone, and that was how they found out about the walls being packed with dirt -- an inexpensive way to fix a house for warmth in winter and coolness in summer.

The family witnessed the second run from Reno City.

The farm north of the river bridge that is now owned by Mr. Clarence Patterson, was at that time staked out in town lots, and when they made the run for farms, they also made a run for the lots in this section, which was an addition to Reno City. Josie Palmer, on a buckskin pony, was successful in getting a lot, and a Mrs. Lambe, who was with the Hulberts, saw Josie Palmer get a lot, jumped out of the Hulbert wagon and staked a lot also. She got it all right but never got anything out of it, because Reno City moved to El Reno shortly after that, because of the railroad going too far to the west of Reno City.

Their nearest neighbor was an old dutchman, who was drunk a good deal of the time. He came to their house one evening when they were gone, went into the house and lit the lamp, and when they came home, he was outside walking around and around their open well. They thought surely he would fall into it, but he didn't.

6

After her husband died on the 20th, of June, 1900, Mrs. Hulbert went to town one day and left the three children at home alone to look after things while she was gone. Some of the neighbor children came over to play and stayed for dinner and they built a fire in the kitchen stove in order to get their dinner, when about three hundred Kiowa Indians came into the yard. They were in wagons, on foot, and on ponies, and it almost scared those children to death. Vera said that she never saw so many dogs in her life, dogs and kids. The children put the fire out in the cook stove by the simple expedient of pouring water on it, fastened up the house and fled to a neighbor's house, where they stayed until their mother came home. This was a band of Kiowas on a visit to the Sac and Fox Tribes that lived at that time in the eastern part of the state. They stopped at the Hulberts because they wanted water. They had a rather peaceable time of it, considering. They were not troubled much, she states, by outlaws in their neighborhood, though the Cocksion Hills in eastern Oklahoma were known then, as well as later, as a place of refuge for the outlaw fraternity. Mrs. Hulbert lived on their

claim with her son, Sam, until he was killed accidentally by the kick of a horse. She moved to El Reno in 1923, and has since resided with her daughter, Vera, and her three grand-children. She still owns the old homestead.

The daughter, Ada, taught school in Canadian County for about fifteen years.

She says she never thought of coming to town to live until her son died, after that it was too lonsly, so she came to town.