

HICKMAN, W. P. (MRS.) INTERVIEW 10280

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

HICKMAN, W. P. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW

#10280

Field Worker's name Ethel Mae Yates

This report made on (date) March 21, 1938 1938

1. Name Mrs. W. P. Hickman

2. Post Office Address Sayre, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) Route A.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month June Day 28 Year 1870

5. Place of birth Missouri

6. Name of Father David A. Moore Place of birth Don't know

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Sarah Moore Place of birth don't know.

Other information about mother _____

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 4

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Ethel Mae Yates
Investigator
March 21, 1938.

Interview with Mrs. W. P. Hickman
Sayre, Oklahoma.

My parents were David A. Moore and Sarah Moore. My mother came to the Territory from Missouri with my husband, our children and me in the year of 1899. We chartered two cars and shipped our household goods and stock to Weatherford, which was the end of the railroad at that time. The immigrant car cost us \$80.00 and the stock car \$50.00. We brought three cows, three horses and a dozen chickens as we thought coming to a new country there would not be anything to buy but on arriving here we learned that we could buy chickens for 18¢ a pound and we could have sold ours for 40¢ before we came.

When we got to Weatherford my husband came on out here in Roger Mills County four miles northwest of Berlin and filed on a claim. One of our children took sick and he didn't get to come back for a year and a half so he wanted to get a leave of absence so no one would contest him and the doctors told him that they would see that he had no trouble.

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We farmed there near Weatherford and made two crops, then came to our claim. We hauled lumber from Weatherford to make a dugout which we made down in the ground. We walled it and put in a good floor and covered our dugout with tar paper, then dirt.

A man who was digging wells along the railroad at the Section houses told us if we could locate two or three wells to dig around in the country he would dig us one. He dug a well on our place that was one hundred and three feet deep and we drew water with a horse for a long time.

We didn't put in a crop on our claim the first year as we had no fence; so we rented some land. It was so dry that we made scarcely anything the first two or three years.

When I wanted to go visiting I would saddle my horse and as I saw brought my side saddle I would put all the children except the baby behind the saddle, then take the baby in my lap and would ride for miles to visit a neighbor. I would also get on my horse and go all over the country to help take care of the sick people. We didn't know anything about nurses and did most of our own doctoring.

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We had no other fruit except wild plums and would go over on the Salt Fork Red River and on Sweetwater Creek to gather plums and sometimes would make it a fishing trip, too.

Not long after we came a school house was built one mile south of us known as the Missouri School and that is where our children got their schooling.

We could get plenty wood in canyons as there was lots of land that had not been homesteaded. We brought our cows and horses so we didn't have as hard a time as lots of our pioneer neighbors did.

There were many rattlesnakes and coyotes; the coyotes would almost deafen us at night and we killed several large rattlesnakes around our dugout door.

Not long after we got here one of our children was bitten by a mad dog. I didn't know what to do but my husband went to Elk City and learned that there were two mad stones there, one of which was owned by a widow woman who told us that, if the stone stuck to the wound, it would cost \$2.50; if not, we were to pay nothing. Doctor Clark came to our home and used it and it stuck forty-eight hours.

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We still live on our homestead and look back to our old pioneer days with pleasure.

Mother pioneered here and filed on a place two miles north of Berlin, which place was then in Roger Mills County. She went through the many hardships that only pioneers know, but is now dead and is buried in the Berlin Cemetery.