

LITTLE, FRISCO J. INTERVIEW

#8205

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BIOGRAPHY FOR
WORKS PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History, Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Mrs Nora Lorrin, El Reno, Oklahoma

This report made on (date) August 15th, 1937

1. Name Mr. Frisco J. Little
2. Post Office Address El Reno, Oklahoma.
3. Residence address (or location) 701 South Hadden.
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 3rd Year 1889
5. Place of birth "Old Frisco" Canadian county Oklahoma.
6. Name of Father Mr. Elmer Little Place of birth Brown County, Illinois
Dec. 29, 1858.
Other information about father Died May 5th, 1925
7. Name of Mother Sarah (Rake) Little Place of birth Missouri, Feb. 17th,
1859
Other information about mother Died May 17th, 1925.

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 _____.

Interview with Frisco J. Little
701 South Hadden
El Reno, Oklahoma

Mr. Frisco J. Little was the first child born at "Old Frisco". He was born in Canadian county at "Old Frisco" on the 3rd of September, 1889. The people of "Old Frisco" presented their first baby with a "lot".

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Little, came to ~~Oklahoma from~~ Kendell, Kansas, his father homesteading a farm in the first opening in 1889. They moved to this homestead to live when Frisco J. Little was about a year old. He lived on his father's homestead until he was twenty-four year old. The farm is located about seven miles north and west of Old Frisco. There is no such town now as Old Frisco.

Their farm home was a frame building of three rooms; the barn was dug in a bank and covered with poles and straw. Prior to building their three room frame house they had a one room "soddy" but did not live in it for long.

Mr. Little's elder sister and brother went to a school house built of sod; at the time it had no name,

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they just called it "The sod school house". The school house that later was built near it is called "Pleasant Valley". They had a good well of water; wood was the fuel they used. Hunting was good, there being lots of quail, prairie chickens and wild turkey.

Fishing was another of their early day sports as there was no law against the use of a seine; that was the way they got most of their fish.

He and his friends used to get a crowd together and go to Mange Lake for a fish fry and they would often stay all day and half the night, fishing; sometimes they would get a wagon bed half full of fish. They would picnic as well as fish and Mr. Little states that sometimes they had a keg of beer along, so they would fry fish; drink beer and seine, also play games and have a general good time.

Another of their early day sports was horse racing. They had a pair of broncho ponies, named Maud and Myrtle, that won lots of prizes ^{at} those horse races; the prize was usually \$5.00 or \$10.00. Mr. Little sometimes drove these

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bronchos to a buggy and they were a pair of high steppers; if the driver laid the lines down they would run away.

The settlers used to have a lot of their early day 4th of July celebrations out at Gilbert's Lake, located a mile and a half north and a mile east of El Reno. The lake was in the shape of ^abig horse shoe, with a lot of large cottonwood trees for shade. People would congregate there and have their potato races, sack race, a platform for dancing, horse races, merry go rounds, fire crackers, red lemonade, and a canvas through which a negro stuck his head for people to throw rotten eggs at. Here the two ponies, Maud and Myrt, won some of their prizes. Mr. Little's father was a good violinist and played for dances all over the country.

Mr. Little remembers the Indian scares; the older people would round the kids up all in one place and have them scared half to death. He remembers seeing a bunch of Indians passing their farm and the children hid in the barn and behind the hay stacks. They were very much afraid of the Indians.

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Some of the names of his early day neighbors were John Little, Frank Little, Charley Little, Bill Rhodeback, George Griffin, Paulsons, Browns, George Bunch, Hiram Thomason, Payton A. Smith, and some of his Indian friends were Charley Inkinish, Eagle Nest, Laura Bird Woman.

Many of the buildings that were at "Old Frisco" were moved to the south of the river and the settlement was then called Yukon.

Mr. Little's father, William Little, was a blacksmith and was employed to shoe horses for the soldiers during the Civil War.

Men were always well supplied with guns, having a 32 rifle, a 33 rifle, a double barreled shot gun and a musket shot gun.

Mr. Little married Miss Helen Eichhoff December 18th, 1912.
