

BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma
HIGGINBOTTOM N. C. (MRS.) INTERVIEW

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Field Worker's name Maurice R. Anderson

This report made on (date) November 17, 1937 1937

1. Name Mrs N. C. Higginbottom

2. Post Office Address Maysville, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year 1847

5. Place of birth Mississippi

6. Name of Father Tom Moody Place of birth Mississippi

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Nancy Higginbottom Place of birth Mississippi

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 _____.

Maurice R. Anderson
Investigator
November 17, 1937

Interview with
Mrs. N. C. Higginbottom
Maysville, Oklahoma.

I was born in 1847 in Mississippi. I came to the Indian Territory with my husband, L. C. Higginbottom; we rented a farm near Whitehead in the Chickasaw Nation and farmed one year and in the spring of 1902, we moved on the Washita River north of Maysville and lived in a tent until we got our house built. My husband built a grist mill and a sawmill on the bank of the river and both the mills were run by water power.

Maysville was just beginning to build up; the railroad came through there in 1902 and most of the lumber used in the buildings at Maysville was sawed at the old water mill run by my husband and he sawed lumber for farmers living on the river. The logs would be cut and brought down the river to the mill. We had an ice house built and in the winter we would cut ice from the river and fill our ice house and this ice would last us all summer.

- 2 -

The winters were colder then, than they are now. I have seen the river freeze so hard that a wagon and team could cross on the ice.

People raised most of what they lived on in those days, there was very little cotton raised then, but I have seen more corn left in the fields then, than is raised now.

My husband and I ran the two mills there on the river until 1908 but that year the river got out of its banks and washed away both mills and we were able to save only parts of the mills.

After this, my husband was afraid to build back there on the river so we moved into Maysville and put in a grist mill, and it was run by steam. My husband ran this mill until he died in 1915. I sold out the mill and still live in the house he built in 1908 in Maysville.