

POSTLETHWAITE, NANCY

INTERVIEW.

#4311

.237

BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma #4311

Worker's name Elizabeth L. Duncan

Report made on (date) June 1 1937

Name Mrs. Nancy Postlethwait

Home Office Address Medford, Oklahoma

Residence address (or location) _____

DATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day 17 Year 1853

Place of birth Indiana

Name of Father James Braqaman Place of birth Indiana

Other information about father _____

Name of Mother Sarah Wright Place of birth Indiana

Other information about mother _____

Write a complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Use additional sheets on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached three.

POSTLETHWAIT, NANCY INTERVIEW.

Person interviewed: Mrs. Nancy POSTLETHWAIT, #43213
Medford, Oklahoma. 239

Birth Date: November 17, 1853.

Where born: Indiana.

Father's name: James Branaman, born in Indiana.

Mother's name: Sarah Wright, born in Indiana.

Husband's name William Aaron Postlethwait.

STORY

William Aaron Postlethwait made the race in the Opening of the Cherokee Strip, September 18, 1893, coming with a horse and buggy from Bluff City, and staking his claim one mile north and three west of Medford, on Osage Creek. Mr. Postlethwait then returned to Kansas to bring Mrs. Postlethwait and family, bringing with them two cows, four pigs one week old, one dozen chickens, four large turkey hens, and also supplies such as plows and machinery.

For three weeks they lived on the open prairie and cooked on an open camp fire, not having a wagon to shelter them. Then they built a one-room sod house where they lived the first year. The second year they built a frame house which still stands.

Mr. and Mrs. Postlethwait stayed on this farm, not leaving it once to return to Kansas, as Mr. Postlethwait drew a Soldier's Pension of \$12.00 per month and Mrs. Postlethwait took in washing. She also had a trade of making women's hair switches and weaving hair watch chains and making women's hair puffs.

The first two years they planted corn but it did not grow, later however, the crops were more abundant. The years were not

p. 2.

so hard for them as they had more of everything to do with than the usual run of people round about them.

The store where they bought supplies was known as the Jim Allen store in Medford.

Mrs. Postlethwait's brother was running a herd of cattle in this community and upon their learning that the Strip was to be "opened", they decided to come upon the invitation of her brother, who advised them that the land was good around here and that it looked promising for a prosperous future; he also advised them where to stake. When Mr. Postlethwait staked the place, he was not certain that it was the right place but after due inquiry, he found that it was correct.

Mr. and Mrs. Postlethwait lived on this farm until 1918 when they sold the farm and moved to town. As this was during the World War, they got a good price for their land.