

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

ROBISON, MARY J.

INTERVIEW.

8676.

Field Worker's name Elsie A. Norris.

This report made on (date) September 27, 1937. 1937

1. Name Mary J. Robison.

2. Post Office Address Mulhall, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 5 Miles west of Mulhall.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 11 Year 1837.

5. Place of birth Knox County, Ohio.

6. Name of Father Henry Genser Place of birth Maryland.

Other information about father He was a "49'er".

7. Name of Mother Christiana Hammond. Place of birth Maryland.

Other information about mother Remarkable for her long life.

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 _____.

ROBISON, MARY J.

INTERVIEW.

8876.

Elsie A. Norris,
Interviewer,
Sept. 27, 1937.

Interview With Mary J. Robison,
Mulhall, Oklahoma.

I was born in Knox County, Ohio, Monday, September 11, 1837; my parents were Henry and Christina Genser. At that time Martin Van Buren, who succeeded Andrew Jackson in the White House, was President of the United States.

I grew up in Ohio and when twenty-one years old I was married to William G. Robison. We came west and lived in Iowa awhile, then Kansas came into prominence and the prairies lured us to that state where we lived until 1898, at which time we came to Oklahoma from Downs, Kansas, and bought and proved up on a claim which a Mr. Ard had taken at the time of the opening but had sold it to two men named Conlter and Billings, each taking an eighty.

When we moved from Downs, Kansas, to our claim we chartered a car and shipped our household goods, horses, cows, chickens, farm implements, etc. Mr. Robison came with the emigrant car and the children, Ed, Bert, and also Mabel and I came on a passenger train a little later. A

ROBISON, MARY J.

INTERVIEW.

8576.

-2-

small house had been built by one of the former owners, into which we moved and added more rooms as we could.

The people of the community had already built a school house in which we had Sunday School every Sunday and church services once or twice a month. Later, a church was built near the school house which is still being used. The church is called Mt. Carmel and the school is Victor, District 29.

(When I went to Mrs. Robison's home to get the rest of her story she was unable to speak, having suffered a slight stroke a week after her 100th birthday. Her daughter gave me the following E. N.)

Interview With Mrs. Robison's Daughter.

My mother was active in the neighborhood affairs, being an interested and diligent church worker. She was a member of the Ladies' Aid, and the Home Makers' Club. In spite of her home duties and doing things for anyone else who needed her help she found time to read enough to keep herself well informed and she was considered a very brilliant conversationalist.

Early in life Mother became a member of the Brethern Church and has continued steadfast in her faith but in

ROBISON, MARY J.

INTERVIEW.

8676.

-3-

later years she worshiped with the Church of God.

When the Civil War took place Mother was grown up and married and remembers quite clearly the hard times caused by the war.

Since Father's death, September 11, 1909, Mother has continued to reside on the home farm and has had the companionship of her two sons, Bert and Ed, until the death of the latter, October 17, 1936. Bert having married and moved to another farm, she has had her granddaughter, Miss Mabel Jones with her since the time of Ed's death.

Mother had ten children, seven girls and three boys, five of whom are living. There are five generations in our family, the youngest being Tommy Nealis, two months old. Mother's descendants now living are five children, twenty-one grandchildren, twenty-one great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren.

Fourteen years ago Mother fell and broke her hip and from then until the latter part of May, this year, she had to use a wheel chair to get around the house. Since May she has been bedfast. She does not look old nor does she have the attributes associated with old age, she is only

BOHISON, MARY J.

INTERVIEW.

8676.

-4-

slightly deaf and can read without the aid of her glasses. Since the accident which put a stop to her activities she has spent her time reading and doing fine needle work. She has also pieced many quilts, she pieced the Wedding Ring when she was ninety-five years old.

As she lies on her big four-poster bed which is more than fifty years old, knowing she will never be any better, Mother remains cheerful and jokes with her visitors. We children realize that to have reached the ripe old age of one hundred years is quite unusual and are very happy to have her with us so many years. A family reunion was planned to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of her birth and her five children, with their families, were all present and scores of friends and relatives contributed their part to the occasion.

Mother attributes her longevity to the fact that she has eaten sparingly of cakes and pies; fruits and vegetables have been important items in her diet and even now, in her one hundredth year, she has a fairly good appetite and it is still fruits and vegetables that she eats.

ROBISON, MARY J.

INTERVIEW.

8676.

-5-

My father, William G. Robison, was born at Mt. Vernon, Knox County, Ohio, in 1828 and at the age of twenty-one he went to California in the gold rush of 1849. He spent eight years there and on the road taking horses out there.

A newspaper picture of Mrs. Mary J. Robison accompanies the original manuscript.-Ed.