

SAINS, MARGARET

INTERVIEW

#7918

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#7916.  
Form A-(S-149)

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

Field Worker's name Grace Kelley

This report made on (date) October 22, 1937.

1. Name Margaret Sains,
2. Post Office Address Route 1, Weleetka, Oklahoma.
3. Residence address (or location) 7 miles southwest of Henryetta.
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 11 Year 1877.
5. Place of birth Tennessee.

6. Name of Father Silas Brown Place of birth Tennessee.

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother Miss Lawson Place of birth Tennessee.

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 Four

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Grace Kelley,  
Investigator.  
October 22, 1937.

Interview with Mrs. Margaret Sains,  
Route 1, Weleetka, Oklahoma.

Indian Confinement and Death.

I have lived among the Indians for so long that I know them as friends and neighbors and they are good ones, too.

When Mrs. Joe Asberry's baby was born I was there and later all her lovely blankets were gathered up and burned. Nothing that had been on her bed was kept. The baby did not have a band put on as our babies have and was just wrapped in a blanket. After three days the mother was up and the baby lived for about seven days. For two days after it died she sewed by hand on pretty dresses and an underskirt. Everything she had made and these things that she made after the baby died were put into the coffin.

When this baby died two women washed it in front of the fire, one from the head to the middle and the other from its middle to its feet. It was then laid

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out on the table and dressed. Mrs. Joe Asberry lost two babies before she learned to treat them as the white people do.

When a person dies all the friends and neighbors come in and are treated well but not like we treat them. A hog is killed, either one belonging to the grieved ones or if they do not have one some of the relatives or friends furnish a hog. Everything you can think of is cooked and kept ready to eat for two or three days; everyone who comes eats and eats.

A grown person who dies has all of his clothes wrapped well and put into the coffin as well as cigarettes, matches, quilts, bridle, rings and everything else which he possesses. I saw a good saddle put on a grave before the house was built over it. This saddle was later stolen and the grave was robbed.

After the coffin is placed in the grave everyone passes around the grave and throws a clot of dirt into it and that means good-bye.

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## Indian Convention of 1901.

About twenty-six years ago all the tribes had a meeting on the mountain where the Silver Springs Baptist Church is now. They wore big shawls wrapped around them so that you could not tell whether they had any clothes on or not. They had long tables filled with food. They had the Ribbon and Green Corn dances around a fire.

I have been told that they used to burn people in these fires but that was before my time, if it is true. The white people were invited so about five wagons of us went out there more out of curiosity than anything else.

## Railroad.

When I first came to the Indian Territory I came from Denison, Texas, on the M. K. & T. Railroad to Atoka, McAlester and on into Coffeyville. I have been told that this was the first track laid in the Territory.

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## Cherokee Strip Opening.

During the opening of the Cherokee Strip my husband, J. W. Sains, was a soldier at Fort Sam Houston. Mike Martin and another soldier from the Twenty-third Infantry at Fort Sam Houston were sent from Fort Sam Houston to guard and keep the people back until the hour set for the "run". These soldiers were old men then so they are very likely dead now.

Bud Ledbetter was the most successful of the United States Marshals. He captured the Sam Cook and Starr gangs and seemed to do more to break up the gangs than any other marshal.

Grant Cowen was United States Marshal in 1907 and was a good one, too.