

SHARP, ROSALIE FRANCES

INTERVIEW

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

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

This report made on (date) July 15, 1937

1. Name Mrs. Rosalie Frances Sharp.

2. Post Office Address El Reno, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 115 South Chestaw Avenue

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 20 Year 1867

5. Place of birth St. Louis, Missouri.

6. Name of Father Leger Nicholas Mottin Place of birth Lorraine, France.

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Mary Jane (De Salm) Mottin Place of birth Missouri.

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.

Mrs. Nora Lorrin,
Field Worker.
July 15, 1937.

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Interview with Mrs. Rosalie Frances Sharp,
115 S. Choctaw Ave. El Reno, Oklahoma
Born March 20, 1867
Father-Leger Nicholas Mottin.
Mother Mary Jane (De Salm) Mottin.

Mrs. Rosalie F. Sharp was born in St. Louis, Missouri, March 20, 1867. Her father, Mr. Leger Nicholas Mottin, was born in the province of Lorraine, France, came to this country when he was eighteen years old, and lived here until his death. Her mother Mary Jane (De Salm) Mottin, was born in Missouri.

Mrs. Rosalie F. Sharp was married to David Lee Sharp, at Wellington, Kansas, when she was eighteen years old. They lived at Caldwell, Kansas. Her husband came to Oklahoma before she did, and arrived in Oklahoma City April 22, 1889. We rode on top of a train that was so loaded he could not get inside. He perched up on top of a coach with a lot of other men who were having the same difficulty.

Water was scarce, and he had to pay five cents a glass for drinking water. He staked some lots in Oklahoma City, but unfortunately he drove his stakes in the alley and did not get to keep the land he staked.

Mr. Sharp buried the first man who died in Oklahoma City. The man, whose name was Taylor, died of typhoid fever, and no one seemed to know anything much about him. He and two other men buried this man there on top of a hill, in what is now

Oklahoma City, although there was no city then. Mr. Sharp attempted to take up a collection to bury the man but was unsuccessful, and so paid for the casket himself, at a cost of twenty-five dollars. He finally located the dead man's sister, by repeated inquiries and letters. She turned out to be a wealthy woman who lived in Kansas City, Missouri. She sent him the twenty-five dollars that he had spent for her brother's burial. He would not accept anything, other than the amount he had expended on the funeral. The dead man had a lot that he had staked, and was living on it in a tent at the time of his death. The sister wanted to present the lot to Mr. Sharp but he refused that, also. She finally came to Oklahoma City, had her brother's body exhumed, and taken to Kansas City.

Mrs. Sharp came to Oklahoma City two or three months after her husband did. There were quite a few houses when she came. They lived there all that summer and then moved to Caldwell, Kansas, to live with Mr. Sharp's mother. They stayed with her until June, 1890, and then Mr. Sharp came to El Reno, and put up a saloon, on Choctaw Avenue, where the Stewart Lumber Company is now located. His saloon was on the second lot from the north corner, on the east side of

the street facing west. It was called "THE DAVY DINK SALOON".

Mr. Sharp had the nickname of "Davy Dink". Mrs. Sharp says she does not know how he came to be called that. She came down from Caldwell, Kansas, in August and went to the Tuston Hotel, as there were no houses for rent. They lived at the hotel until Mr. Sharp rented a house, then next to a corn-field, but would be located now in the heart of the town.

Her husband had lots of Indian friends, but she did not come in contact with them. She still has some of the furniture that she had when they came here in 1890. One piece is a kitchen chair that was bought and used for the parlor then; also an old marble topped table and an old wardrobe that is made of solid walnut. They brought these things with them when they came here.

She states that her husband was a great hunter. They had a nice little phaeton, and a little gray pony. She says, he and I would go hunting. I would do the driving. He had a fine bird dog named Jack. Jack would set quails, then they would fly and my husband would shoot dozens of them on the wing, plovers, and prairie chickens, also.

He'd get as many as a hundred at one time. We'd bring them home, dress them, and give away all but what we wanted ourselves. Later, game became very scarce. We'd go and

stay all day and take our dinner with us, he never would let me take any meat, but the last time we went, I sneaked in a nice steak and did not tell him about it. We'd get pretty hungry. He went off hunting and all he found was a meadow lark. I saw him coming and made a little fire, and started cooking the steak, and when my husband got close enough to smell the steak, he was gloriously happy. It smelled so good and he was so tired and hungry, he said "Dear, I'm happy that you've got something to eat, I am starved." We used wood for fuel and a well provided water.

Mrs. Sharp has two dresses and a black beaded cape that she has had for fifty-four years; also a black plumed hat to match. One of the dresses is a gross-grained silk, which cost three dollars a yard, the other a black satin. Each cost \$100. for the material, and making. The cape cost her \$45. and the hat, \$25. She loaned the black silk dress and the plumed hat to Miss Ruth Skidmore to wear in the Pioneer parade and it just fit her. They are too small for Mrs. Sharp now, as she used to be slender.

Her husband ran the saloon in El Reno almost up to the time of prohibition. He started home one night, with a large bag full of silver and gold. Of course he carried a big six

shooter. As he was about half way home he saw two men up ahead of him acting suspiciously. He decided that they were going to try to rob him, so he turned and went back to his saloon. He had a negro porter sleeping there whose name was Pet. He says, "Pet, here's a six shooter, come with me and if you see anything that looks like a man coming after us, turn loose and shoot him." Since he had help, they were not molested but they were followed. Mr. Sharp found out afterward that it was two policemen, Jack Marshall and a man by the name of Richardson. Both have been dead a long time now.