

SHAW, LIDA

INTERVIEW

8474

179

INTERVIEW

Form A-(S-149)

BIOGRAPHY FORM

8474

180

SHAW, MRS. LIDA WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Merrill A. Nelson

This report made on (date) August 24 1938

Pond Creek in Early Days.

1. Name Mrs. Lida Shaw (Mr. Ferris, Judge Bird)

2. Post Office Address 1314 E. Maple St., Enid, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day 14 Year 1868

5. Place of birth Fort Madison, Iowa

6. Name of Father Aaron Chatterton Place of birth Bethel, Indiana.

Other information about father A Christian Church Minister.

7. Name of Mother Eliza Nesbit Place of birth Indiana

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 5.

SHAW, MRS. LIDA - INTERVIEW. 8474.

M. A. Nelson,  
Interviewer,  
August 24, 1937.

Mrs. Lida Shaw's Story  
Early Days in Pond Creek.

My mother died when I was only two or three years old. So I know little about her. I have heard, however, that she was a wonderful house-keeper.

We moved into Oklahoma in the spring of 1898, locating in Grant County at Pond Creek.

I was born in Fort Madison, Iowa. I married and left Iowa for Pratt, Kansas, where we located on a half section of land. Our house was made of drygoods boxes lined with newspapers. However, we had fun as well as hardship. We burned surface fuel, there.

We were in a county seat fight between Inca and Pratt. One Sunday we went to Pratt. They would not let us get out of the wagon. We had to have proof that we had a farm and would vote for Pratt before

SHAW, MRS. LIDA. INTERVIEW. 8474.

- 2 -

they would let us return. There were many soldiers on the streets. You could come into town but you could hardly get out.

The Christian Church, in which my father was a minister, met over in the school house. The Methodist Church was built before I came.

We had almost no depot, just a landing place. The agent lived in the back of the depot.

We left Pratt, Kansas, and went to Eugene, Oregon. We did not prosper there so we returned to this section, settling in Pond Creek, among the earliest settlers. The country looked rough and the people rougher. Every other store was a saloon. Later, a better class of people came and finally the retired farmers moved in. I was not used to the class of people here at first and was discouraged. I thought, in fact, I had almost come to the bad place. They were all right but I had not adjusted myself to them.

The river overflowed its banks again and again. The water would run bank full and wash out the bridges. One night the mill burned down. They had only a volun-

SHAW, MRS. LIDA. INTERVIEW. 8474.

- 3 -

teer fire department, with buckets and perhaps a wheel cart. They also had ladders but were unable to cope with the situation. After this they got a fire engine.

We were among the first to have city water, also among the first to use gas for cooking purposes. Other conveniences as the telephone and electricity came in slowly.

Among the old timers were Geo. Marcus, the first jeweler, C. B. Francky, general Merchandise man, and L. L. Lee, a furniture man. I could carry in my petticoat what he had when he started. Another was W.M. McKinley, who had a general merchandise store.

One big party was held for C. B. Francky and wife on their twenty fifth wedding anniversary. They held this gathering in the old opera house. All the town and the surrounding country was there. The opera house looked like a sheep corral, but they were all there, nevertheless.

SHAW, MRS. LIDA. INTERVIEW. 8474.

- 4 -

I shall never forget the first fourth of July, I spent there. This was in the year 1900. There was not a tree in town and it was certainly hot but everyone was having a big time. People came for miles. They walked up one side of the street and down the other. There were speakers who spoke for and against single statehood.

My parents are buried in Davenport, Iowa. My only living daughter, (I had three children) is Mrs. F. M. Ferris, next door. She is a housekeeper now, but she was employed in a bank in Pond Creek.

One of the mayors was H. M. McKinley; J. M. Asher was another.

Our first home had the second well in town and people came from everywhere to get a drink. As I said we lived in a house that had two rooms and an outside room. Mr. Lowry built a porch connecting these. Later we built our own home.

Pond Creek won't allow colored people to live here. They hanged a colored man there once.

SHAW, MRS. LIDA. INTERVIEW. 8474.

- 5 -

My husband was a clothing salesman. He worked for Geo. W. Berry awhile; also for L. B. or C. B. Francky.

Pond Creek became a fine business town, but the merchants made a mistake in fighting the railroads. They thought these would hurt their business. They dynamited the bridge. Judge Bird of Enid could tell about that. He was one of the first teachers there.

They had no city water when we came to Pond Creek or other conveniences now considered essential.

Mr. Francky was one of the earliest storemen. My husband worked for him and also for the Decker Brothers. They came later but were pioneers also.