

SHANKLIN, JULIA ANN. INTERVIEW

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

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SHANKLIN, JULIA ANN.

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Field Worker's name Ophelia D. Vestal.

This report made on (date) January 27, 1938. 1938

1. Name Julia Ann Shanklin.

2. Post Office Address Lawton, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 313 1/2 H. Avenue.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 26 Year 1851.

5. Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

6. Name of Father \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

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

7. Name of Mother \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Ophelia D. Vestal,  
Investigator,  
Jan. 27, 1938.

An Interview With Julia Anna Shanklin,  
Lawton, Oklahoma.

Upon coming to this new country there are a lot of things we have learned that have certainly been of value to us. I had two boys to drive wagons through, bringing people and a few of their belongings. A third boy drove cattle and horses for these people. The rest of our family came here on the train. When we reached Fort Worth, I felt like crying; I wanted to go back but could not. We arrived here in October, 1901, and to our surprise it was yet a tent town. The hotels were curtained off in small rooms, with a narrow curtained hall in this long tent. We had front windows and a real door with a glass in it in our tent hotel.

This country around Lawton made an ideal place for the Indians to camp, even before Fort Sill was established. All along Cache Creek there used to be hundreds of tepees; food and water were plentiful.

Prior to 1865 to 1870, I have been told, the Indians never had heard of missionaries; they worshipped the sun

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as father and the earth as mother and they believed in cutting their arms or their bodies near their heart and offering it as a sacrifice to their god, for him to give them health and very long lives.

A strip of land from the Washita River to Red River lay open for the Indians years ago. Nothing was in this territory to bother the Indians, so they were having a real time to themselves when they heard some white men were coming down. They thought it meant trouble and this land was their land. All prepared to meet the white men with their bows and arrows. Then they were told a meeting would be held the next day and it was to be a friendly meeting, so they met the next day. The Indians were told that the Government only wished to establish a fort some where in this locality. The Indians did not care and soon left the meeting. This is the first meeting I have ever heard of among the Indians and white people and soon Fort Sill was located here.

I was but a small girl when the Civil War started, just old enough to start to learning how to cook. There was a lot of harm done in those days. Some soldiers came

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to our home and took our food. My mother begged them to leave us enough corn to make into meal for corn bread. They left us only a little, not enough to run us very long. We had one horse left and someone took it one night. In those days we had rail fences made of long logs or rock fences. We heard the men coming it, was an awful roar, like a storm, and they drove over the fences, tearing them down, burning things, chasing our chickens, tearing down the flour mill and destroying everything they could. My father was away. We had one letter from him in very cold weather saying he had no shoes and was fighting and it was so cold. The first Yankee Soldiers that came to our house, came carrying a flag and waving it. It was only a black handkerchief. I was very frightened.