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Field Worker: Mary D. Dorward  
April 29, 1937

Interview with Lillie J. Shreck  
1707 South St. Louis  
Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Born In 1865  
In Louisville, Kentucky

Parents: Father, C. W. Hoy,  
Ohio  
Mother, Amanda Eccles  
Kentucky

From A Personal Interview With the Subject.

I pioneered to Kansas from Kentucky with my parents when I was ten years old. We came in a covered wagon and crossed the Mississippi river on a raft at Cape Girardeau. I lived in Kansas for ten years, when I married and came with my husband to old Indian Territory, in 1885.

We lived on Thompson's ranch about 20 miles south of Vinita, in a two-room log house. One room was kitchen and dining-room, while the other was living and bedroom, and there was no opening between the two rooms. When we wanted to get from one room to the other we had to go outside.

OUTLAWS.

We never had any trouble with the gangs of outlaws.

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They always seemed like nice boys. I once held Al Spencer when he was a baby. His people were fine folks.

Once we had a dance and two bands of outlaws showed up, the Delosier gang and the Thompson gang. They all had six-shooters and one man had six notches on his gun. We didn't want any trouble and they said they didn't want to make any trouble so we asked the Delosier gang to leave and we gave them a dance at another time. We had a wash boiler full of oyster stew made from a box of oysters we had got from Vinita. We didn't often see oysters in those days. We also had three baked hams. Trouble Jim Sanders saw the hams stuffed with cloves and he said, "Look at the leopards," and started shooting them full of bullets. His sister made him stop shooting at the hams so then he started shooting through the ceiling.

#### DANCES.

Dances were about our only form of amusement. We always had plenty of baked hams to eat and once in a while oyster stew. Once when we were having a dance a big rain storm came up. The creeks came up so we couldn't get home and we had to stay there three days. We had plenty of baked hams, molasses and corn bread to eat and we made "cornfield" beds to sleep on, long pallets on the floor, so that we managed to be comfortable. The cowboys always

came to our dances and we always liked them.

#### ALONE ON THE RANCH.

I had to be alone on the ranch a great deal and as we were not far from the railroad I was often bothered by tramps, but the cowboys never let any of them harm me. The cowboys always treated me like a queen.

#### GAME.

Game was so plentiful in those days. Once my son, only fourteen, went out hunting and came home with 12 wild turkeys and a whole gunny sack full of squirrels and quail. Another time one of the Adair boys came by our place and he and his pony were just covered with wild turkeys.

#### OVER NIGHT GUESTS.

It was a common thing then for people to ride up and expect to stay all night, and we were always glad to have them and never thought of asking pay for it. Once when I was along with my baby, three big Indian bucks walked into the house and without a word made a fire and stretched out on the floor and spent the night. The next morning they got up and after a few grunts went off. They couldn't speak a word of English and I didn't know

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their language, but they never offered to ha. me in any way and I never thought of being afraid.

#### MOVE TO SHAWNEE.

In 1895 we left Vinita and moved to Oklahoma City. We went by the stage coach and freighted our goods by wagon train. We stayed only a few months in Oklahoma City and then moved to Shawnee the same year. My husband opened the first store in Shawnee.

#### THE RAILROAD COMES TO SHAWNEE.

About the year we went to Shawnee a railroad was started southeast from Oklahoma City. I don't know what road it was but they were going to extend it through to Tecumseh. Tecumseh was a larger and older place, had put up a good bid for it, and had secured a right of way. But Shawnee wanted it, too, so one night some of the Shawnee men went out and moved a house right on the right of way. The workmen didn't care which town got the railroad so they just laid the tracks around the house and built it in to Shawnee instead of Tecumseh.

#### KICKAPOO OPENING.

The opening of the Kickapoo lands was just like the other openings--great crowds of people and much confusion. I kept the store while my husband made the run.

He succeeded in staking a claim but two other people claimed it also, so my husband lost it.

MOVE TO TULSA.

In 1903 we moved to Tulsa, crossing the Arkandas river on a raft, but by that time there were 1500 people here. My husband opened the Shreck and Bungarner store, my children grew up, and my daughter (Mrs. Harry Price) attended Kendall College and the conservatory of music. My telephone number then was 659 and I still have the same number with two other numbers in front of it.

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