

SHONLAU, CAROLINE

INTERVIEW

8569

14

SHONLAU, CAROLINE.

INTERVIEW.

8569

Nora Lorrin, Interviewer

9-14-37

An interview with Caroline Shonlau,
315 West Wade, El Reno, Oklahoma.

Caroline Bucher was born at Tettang Wurtemberg, Germany, on January 22, 1859. Her father, Antone Bucher, died in Germany leaving her mother a widow with six children to support. Her mother, Caroline Bucher, came to America when Mrs. Shonlau was six years of age. They moved around a lot and were living in Tennessee when one of the presidents was assassinated, it was probably Abraham Lincoln as they came to America in 1865. The Bucher family resided for a time in Wisconsin and finally settled in Kansas and lived for a time at Oneida Kansas.

Caroline Bucher married Peter Maschino and was the mother of six children when they decided to come to Oklahoma. The reason they came to Okarche was because Mrs. Maschino had read in a paper that the German Catholics were going to form a colony at and around Okarche, and that the people who wanted to join them were to come to Kingfisher.

They came to Kingfisher on the train in April, 1892 at the opening of the Cheyenne and Arapaho lands. Her

SHONLAU, CAROLINE.

INTERVIEW.

8569

2

husband made the run on a horse borrowed from a neighbor. The neighbor had a team and each man rode one of the horses. When the neighbor stopped to stake his claim the horse which Mr. Maschino rode refused to leave his mate and would not go a step further, so Mr. Maschino had to stake the claim which his horse chose. He drove his stake on the highway between farms instead of on a claim but they allowed him to take the claim he wanted anyway. It was located two miles south of Okarche. They built a box house 16 x 16 feet. They had to haul water both for their own use and for the stock; they had three horses and a cow. They could hardly get enough water for the cow, she drank so much; the cow would stand and watch people pass hauling water and bawl.

Later on the Maschino family had plenty of water. For fuel, they burned cow chips. They brought a lot of salt meat with them when they came to Oklahoma and for a long time, that was their main sustenance. Mr. Maschino died in December, 1892, leaving Mrs. Maschino with six children to support.

She and her children managed to farm for two years when she married Joseph Shonlau and three children were born to them and when the youngest child was six years old, Mr.

SHONLAU, CAROLINE.

INTERVIEW.

8569

3

Shonlau died. Mrs. Shonlau continued to reside on the farm and managed it until she moved to El Reno in 1916.

Before leaving the farm they had a good two story six room house and a nice large barn and granary.

Their first church was a little frame one in Okarche. They only lived two miles from Okarche and so they went to church in town.

Mrs. Shonlau did not come in contact with the Indians and did not see much of them and the only game she saw were Jack rabbits.

Their first crop after coming to Oklahoma was kaffir corn but later they raised corn and other crops. Mrs. Shonlau still has a chest of drawers which she has had in her possession for a long time.

This chest belonged to Mrs. Shonlau's mother but it was not brought from Germany. It has four drawers and is very heavy.