

SPEEGLE, MINTIE V. INTERVIEW

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Interview with Mrs. Mintie V. Speegle
S. Church St.,
Cordell, Okla.

Field Worker: Ida B. Lankford,
June 15, 1937.

Born July 10, 1875,
Corsicana, Texas.

Parents Lonzo Carpenter, father,
Georgia. Baptist Preacher.
Mary Ivell, mother,
Ala.

We came to Washita County, Oklahoma, July 4, 1894.

We came in covered wagons from Corsicana, Texas, and we filed on land and built a half dugout. It was made of logs and covered with brush and dirt. It was a real snake and rat hole, a prairie dog town and of all the fleas, we had them.

We gathered peas that fall and had to cook them without any meat or grease. Salt was all we had to put in them.

We freighted from El Reno. It would take six days to make the trips, and while the men were gone the women would care for the children, homes and stock.

We would take our cotton sacks and go over the prairie to gather cow chips to burn for fuel and we made our bedsteads out of cottonwood poles.

p.2.

The first feed that we planted was between sage grass. We had a garden but not any fruit. We had sorghum molasses and butter.

We had an old skillet to do our cooking in, also a huge iron pot in which to boil things and a tin coffee pot.

I was afraid of the Indians. If one of them died, they put everything that belonged to him or her in the grave with the body. When an Indian got sick, one old Indian would go to a tree stump and dream. If he dreamed the sick one was going to get well or that he was going to die, that is the way it would turn out. While the old Indian was dreaming, the others would be having their big Pow-Wow way of dancing.

We would have to go to other counties and work to get our winter supplies of groceries and drygoods. We did well if we women got two dresses a year, without considering hats.

We wore our bonnets to church and had to walk some distance, probably four or five miles, to hear the church services.

We brought two wagons and a buggy with us from Texas, and had to ferry across the Red River. They charged us thirty-seven cents to cross.