

SPRAGUE, PEARL JOHNSTON. INTERVIEW

4993

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma
SPRAGUE, PEARL JOHNSTON. INTERVIEW 4993

Field Worker's name Maurice E. Anderson

This report made on (date) July 21 1937

1. Name Mrs. Pearl Johnston Sprague

2. Post Office Address Pauls Valley, Okla.

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year 1891

5. Place of birth Indian Territory Chickasaw Nation

6. Name of Father M. Johnston Place of birth Mississippi

Other information about father deceased

7. Name of Mother C. J. Palmer Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about mother deceased

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 2.

Maurice R. Anderson, Interviewer,
July 21, 1937.

Interview with Mrs. Pearl
Johnston Sprague.

Pauls Valley, Oklahoma.

I was born at old McGee, Indian Territory, Chickasaw Nation in 1891. My father farmed and raised cattle and hogs. Mr. McGee established the first Post office at old McGee, and he owned the cotton gin there. When New Ada began to build up, my father put in the first grocery store there, that was in 1900. When we moved to Ada there were several tents there, but in a short time, there were several stores and dwelling houses and you could hear men hammering and building store buildings and houses in nearly any part of the night.

People lived in half dug-outs and log houses with dirt floors. Around old McGee, there were some nice houses; they belonged to the big cattlemen mostly.

I was small when we lived at McGee, but I can remember going to candy breakings and parties, given by people who lived in these half dug outs, and everybody would have a good time.

Back when I started to school, children didn't have the chance to get the schooling like they do now. My first school was a log school house, and we had to sit on hewed down logs for seats without any desks.

This was a subscription school, and they only taught three months out of a year. The next school I went to was the F. B. C. College at Tecumseh.

I now live in Pauls Valley.