

SPEARMAN, J. C. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW

10050

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

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SPEARMAN, J. C.(MRS.) INTERVIEW 10050

Field Worker's name Lillian Cassaway

This report made on (date) February 21, 1938 1938

1. Name Mrs. J., C. Spearman

2. Post Office Address Anadarko, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 702 West Georgia Avenue

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 3 Year 1895

5. Place of birth Mulhall, Oklahoma

6. Name of Father J. W. Robinson Place of birth _____

7. Name of Mother Sarah Jane Sluder Place of birth Kentucky

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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Investigator; Lillian Cassaway
February 21, 1938.

Interview with Mrs. J. C. Spearman
702 West Georgia
Anadarko, Oklahoma.

My mother made the run in Old Oklahoma. She came down from Kansas with three children in a wagon. She was a woman who thought that if you wanted a thing you had to go after it. She wanted a homestead so she left my father in Kansas and made the run herself. Father was a Methodist minister and couldn't leave at the time. Besides us children, she had a pig, two hens and a rooster in the wagon. She drove all the first day and that night she stopped near a spring. The next morning she got up and looked around and decided that it was a very good place. So she said, "Well, here is where I'm going to stay. It looks like a pretty good place and I had just as well take it." My father came later. This place was two and one half miles northwest of Mulhall, Oklahoma.

A young man, Joe Brown, staked a claim that joined my mother's. He later married my sister and they still live on the place he staked.

My father died a few years after we came to Oklahoma. When the town of Mulhall was laid out Mrs. Jack Mulhall bought some lots in the cemetery. Then when my father died she came to my mother and gave the lots to her. Mother offered to buy them but she said, "No," that when the lots were gotten they intended to use them, but she had changed her mind. She said their family would be put to rest on their own place and that she wanted to give mother the lots as an act of friendship. My father was laid to rest one afternoon and that night one of my sisters passed away. Mrs. Mulhall lived on a ranch a little way from town but she came to my sister's funeral, and walked most of the way gathering blue and white daisies as she came, weaving them into a wreath for the casket. We had no hot houses then. These things were never forgotten.

In a few years my mother married again and in 1900 she went to Guthrie for a while, then to Oklahoma City where she worked in the McKenne Sanatorium. It was while in this sanatorium that she heard of an opening that was to be at the Kiowa Agency. The mess cook was thinking of leaving, and there was no one to take her place. After considering

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the situation she came to Anadarko in 1904 and cooked for the men at the Agency.

The Agency house was built of posts, stood upright in the ground, and plastered up with some clay mixture. George Chandler, an Indian, said that this was the first school house in Anadarko. The old house soon became so dilapidated that it couldn't be used with comfort, then my mother took over part of Fred Schlegle's house and did home baking and continued to feed the single men at the agency.

Fred Schlegle was the Government blacksmith for many years, until there was not so much work to do on account of the cars and trucks; and, too, he was getting old. He was the one who told my mother about the opening for a cook at the mess house. He had gone to the sanatorium for treatment.

The doctors didn't want the cook to leave but when she finally did leave Mr. Schlegle sent Mother word and she felt that she could do better, so she made application and was accepted. We stayed at the agency about four years, then we moved to the New Anadarko, and the next year my mother died, my step-father having died some time before.

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When Mr. Schlegle quit working he moved to New Town (Anadarko) and lived with Mr. and Mrs. John Becker until his death. Mr. Schlegle's wife was an Indian and it is said that during a flood here in about 1884, she acted as messenger carrier, and swam the river on horseback to take the messages. When we came here in 1904, Mr. Schlegle had the horse he said that she rode. It was twenty years old then.

Mr. Schlegle kept a kind of diary that he always kept under lock and key. In this diary he had the record of everything that happened and the date, even down to the time of day. I never knew what became of that book.

Frank Farwell, a squawman who lived just east of the Agency, cared for the deer that were kept by the Agency. They had taken the deer from the little park in front of the office building and put them in a pen east of Mr. Farwell's house. The buck was bad about jumping the fence and running around just as he pleased and the children going to and from New Anadarko to school were always warned to look out for him for he was mean. One day the buck got

Mrs. Farwell down and injured her so with his antlers that she never recovered. The deer were then taken and put back in the little pen and a double height fence was put around it. In time the deer were turned loose and were eventually killed off.