

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

JARRETT, HELEN WILLISON INTERVIEW 12794

Field Worker's name Mary D. Dorward,

This report made on (date) January, 27 1938

1. Name Helen Willison Jarrett, (Mrs. D. A. Jarrett)

2. Post Office Address Tulsa, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 217 South Jamestown,

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year 1888

5. Place of birth Indian Territory

6. Name of Father James D. Willison Place of birth _____

Other information about father Creek Indian

7. Name of Mother Mary J. Mackey Willison Place of birth Fort Gibson

Other information about mother Creek and Cherokee

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.

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Mary D. Dorward,
Investigator,
January, 27, 1938

An Interview with Helen Willison Jarrett,
217 South Jamestown,
Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Mrs. Jarrett, born in Indian Territory about 1888,
is the daughter of Mary Josephine Willison.

Mrs. Willison, who has some white blood, was born
with blue eyes and fair hair, almost unknown among Indians.
Those of Indian blood who saw her had never seen blue eyes
and thought she had been born blind.

Mrs. Willison taught school at Vian, carrying her
two children to school with her on horseback and crossing
the Arkansas River at Webbers Falls on the ferry. She
saved her money earned by teaching and bought a sewing
machine, for which she paid \$100.00. She was a subscriber
to the "Delineator" from the time it was first issued,
and people would come for miles to see her magazine. She
also used her school money to buy a shawl which she prized.

Mrs. Jarrett has an oil painting of Nancy Drew Mackey,
painted when she was about sixteen by an artist at Fort
Gibson.

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The painting is not dated, but is thought to be well over a hundred years old. During the Civil War the painting was cut from its frame and taken with the family when they went South.