

TAYLOR, H. A. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW

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

TAYLOR, H. A. (MRS)

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Field Worker's name Lillian Gassaway.
 This report made on (date) March 28, 1938. 1938

1. Name Mrs. H. A. Taylor.
 2. Post Office Address Anadarko, Oklahoma.
 3. Residence address (or location) 301 West Virginia.
 4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month June Day 8 Year 1938
 5. Place of birth Michigan.

6. Name of Father C. W. Sprague. Place of birth New York.
 7. Name of Mother Mary Palton Sprague. Place of birth New York.

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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Lillian Gassaway,
Investigator,
March 28, 1938.

Interview With Mrs. H. A. Taylor,
301 West Virginia, Anadarko, Okla.

EDMOND NORMAL SCHOOL

My father, C. W. Sprague, and my brother came down for the Run in 1889. They came down from Kansas. Neither one staked a claim and my brother went on to Kingfisher and my father went back to the little town of Frisco. Frisco and El Reno had a fight over which was to be the county seat. El Reno was on the railroad while Frisco was not, and eventually El Reno won the fight and Frisco was no more.

My father was a carpenter by trade, and he and his partner built the first house in Union City. His partner was John Roundsburger.

We moved to Edmond in 1891, and I entered the Edmond Normal School in 1892, when its doors were opened for the first time. The first year it was held in the old Methodist Church. This church burned down a few years ago.

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Mr. Richard Thatcher, who was the entire faculty that first year, made the benches upon which we sat. The second year he had two assistants, a Mrs. Douglas and Mr. Frank McNett. Mr. McNett was a young man and took his work very seriously. The young people made life miserable for him. This second year the Normal was held in the old Central Hall just across the street from the old Central Hotel. About the middle of the year when the first building of the school was far enough along, we were moved into it.

Mr. Wynan then was made president and Mr. Thatcher was given the chair of mathematics. Other teachers were Frank McNett, O. Allen, Miss Mary Stoss and a Mr. Umbolt. Mr. Murdock followed Mr. Wynan as president.

I had a copy of the picture taken of the first student body which I gave to Prof. Murdock. I think there were only about twenty-one students that first year.

Edmond had the first school house in Oklahoma after the Run of 1889. A Mrs. Twyford was the first teacher. Her son, Jim Twyford, who is now a practicing attorney in Oklahoma City, was the second postmaster at Flattery.

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Note:

Mrs. Taylor says that someone made the mistake of saying that the Edmond Normal opened in the Central Hall, but that isn't true, and as one of the first students she is making this correction.