

TERRY, BONNIE.

SECOND INTERVIEW.

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

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TERRY, BONNIE. (MRS.)

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Field Worker's name Mildred B. McFarland. Investigator

This report made on (date) July 29, 1937

1. Name Mrs. Bonnie Terry.

2. Post Office Address Edmond, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) _____

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

5. Place of birth _____

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

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 5.

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Mildred B. McFarland.
Investigator,
July 29, 1937.

An Interview with Mrs. Bonnie Terry.
Edmond, Oklahoma.

LAURA VIVIAN DOXSIE

Laura Vivian Doxide came to Oklahoma two years after the opening of 1889 from Nebraska, where she had lived with her parents and had pioneered on a cattle ranch. She was a fearless rider, but out of practice for a long ride. She and her mother and father planned to make the run in the Cherokee Strip. People twenty-one years of age who had never held a government homestead were entitled to one-hundred and sixty acres of land. Husband and wife were not permitted to each hold farms, but one of the party might hold a farm and the other town lots. Laura was old enough to file a claim and her father and mother planned to each file a claim on town lots and a farm. Her mother was going on the train to Perry to file on town lots, while Laura and her father went on horse back to file on farms.

About three months before the run was to be made, Laura's father bought a horse for her to ride, which

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she called "Barney". She practiced daily until she was in fine mettle and was able to make eighteen or twenty miles at a canter. She rode a man's saddle and divided-riding habit. A canteen, blanket roll and lunch kit were procured and she learned to camp out.

A few days before the race the other members of the family started to Orlando in a covered wagon. They had a camping outfit, with bedding, a plow and enough supplies to last about a week. Laura's brother, Wayne, and her cousin, Louis, Dixie, who were not old enough to hold land, had charge of the outfit. The two horses that were to be ridden by Laura and her father were led behind the wagon. When the party reached Orlando, they secured their certificates for registration to be used in filing.

On the day of the run, Sept. 16. 1893, a mass of people, in all kinds of conveyances, wagons, buggies, buckboards, two wheeled carts and on horse back, were gathered at the line waiting for the signal guns. Many saw the smoke, but few heard the report. One man began plowing right where he was and of course, held that

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land. Laura and her father rode due north and directed the wagon drivers to be at a certain place at such a time, so they could obtain more supplies when needed.

Laura's mother was on the train, but she failed to obtain lots as she had driven her stake on land belonging to the railroad company.

There were a great many people in Perry, about fifty thousand had entered from Kansas City alone. Laura's mother went to the appointed meeting place and waited all day for the arrival of the camp wagon with the other members of the party. As evening drew on, she was nearly out of money, and she could find no one she knew, so she took the next train back to Edmond. She had worn a red sunbonnet with which she was able to flag the train and get aboard.

In the meantime the father and daughter had been riding north at a gallop and they had covered about sixteen miles when Mr. Doxie's horse gave out and he had to slow down. Laura kept on with instructions to stop somewhere west of what seemed to be a town. Many horses were giving out, some had broken legs and had to be killed, leaving owners with saddle and camp outfit to carry. So most

of them stayed where they were.

Laura staked the claim about one mile east of Perry. There was a good spring on her land and it proved to be a very good location. When her father arrived late in the afternoon, he drove his stakes about a half mile away from hers, then he went to Perry to hunt for the boys with the wagon and his wife, but he was told by a friend that Mrs. Doxie had gone home.

Grocery stores were in operation and lumber was available; within a few days shacks were going up all over the prairie. These supplies were ready and waiting when the race began. They had been brought in by train and freighters. These freighters did a thriving business in early days and many times kept the wolf from the door until crops could be gathered.

They built a cabin and a few outhouses on Laura's place and kept on improving it until she had proved up.

There were numerous wolves around and she decided she might as well profit by them as she was an excellent shot. She killed several of the animals and cured and tanned the hides herself. It was quite a job, but she soon had them in good shape and she proceeded to fashion a coat. She had an old satin dress with which she lined the coat. She wore that coat for many years.

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Laura decided to marry about a year later and as she was leaving Nebraska it was necessary as required by law to dispose of her claim. She secured a good price for it, but she had become so attached to the place she was sorry to leave it. She sold it to an Eastern man.