

REGON, FLORA

INTERVIEW

#4765

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

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RAGON, MRS. FLORA      INTERVIEW      4765

Field Worker's name Amelia F. Harris.

This report made on (date) July 12 1937

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

1. Name Mrs. Flora Ragon,

2. Post Office Address Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 607 N. E. 7th

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 9 Year 1875

5. Place of birth Texas

6. Name of Father J. R. Jarboe Place of birth Virginia

Other information about father Made the run in Sac and Fox

7. Name of Mother Frances E. Jarboe Place of birth Georgia

Other information about mother Came in September 1889 to Oklahoma.

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 4

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Amelia F. Harris,  
Interviewer,  
July 12, 1937.

An Interview with Mrs. Flora Ragon,  
607 N. E. 7th,  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Father made the Sac and Fox Run, coming from Texas to Oklahoma in 1891, a year after negotiations were completed with four tribes in Oklahoma for the allotment of their land. These were the Sac and Fox, the Pottawatomie and Shawnee Indians. The land opening was staged September 22, 1891. Father drove a good team to a light buggy and made the Run with thousands of others. He was successful in getting a homestead near Shawnee, stuck up his stakes, then drove into Guthrie and paid the \$1.25 per acre required by law before you could obtain legal rights.

Father then returned to Sulphur Springs, Texas, after his family. We were all packed, ready and eager to go to our new home. We lived in a tent until Father could build a two-room box house.

Father's health was so poor that he could not stand the hardships of farm life, so in October, 1892, he sold the homestead, with very little improvements on it for \$1,200.00.

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and moved his family to Oklahoma City.

Here he engaged in the hardware business on Grand Avenue between Broadway and Robinson in a frame building.

He was in business here for six years.

Our first home in the City was on the corner of Grand and Harvey, where Sears and Roebuck's department store is today. This was a two story duplex and owned by Dr. Bradford. The Bradfords lived upstairs and we occupied the first floor. We lived in this home for two years then bought a home in the four hundred block on Washington street. This was considered the elite part of town in those days and designated as South Oklahoma City. All north of Grand Avenue, which was Main Street then, was called the hill.

During the six years that Father was in the hardware business Mother was busy doing her part, seeing to our education, sewing, cooking, washing and ironing, besides helping in the store on busy days.

Our first school teacher in Oklahoma City was Miss Alice Biteman who taught in a frame building on the corner of First and Robinson streets. Our benches were made of boxing with-out backs. We used a slate and pencil, with a

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sponge on a string attached to the slate to wash it off. There were about fifty children in this room, from the primer to about the tenth grade. All were taught by one teacher.

Our amusements were very limited, church socials, box suppers, Christmas tree entertainments and closing of school exercises. We attended Sac & Fox ceremonial dances.

Major Woodson had charge of the Indian Agency at Darlington, and the Government would issue beef every three months through the Agency. The Woodsons would invite several couples of young men and ladies as their guests during these issues, which were very interesting. The Indians would have on native costume, with all accessories, war bonnets, beads, shells, and their faces would be painted in readiness for the dances.

There was a corral which covered several acres. There would be thirty or forty fat beeves in this corral. The Indians would jump astride their ponies bareback. The Government agents would let one steer out at a time and the Indians would run this steer until it was almost exhausted and the blood would be up to fever heat, then the Indian men would

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cut its throat and catch the blood in containers and drink the blood while hot. The steer was then turned over to the women and children, who would skin and prepare it for barbecuing. The same procedure was carried on each day until they had killed six or eight beeves. At night the Indians did their dancing around a fire. We white people would participate in the dances, too. These Indians were of the Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Sac & Fox Tribes. We always looked forward to these events, hoping for an invitation from Major Woodson. I would never miss a one that I got an invitation to. They were very exciting and colorful. We were always friendly with the Indians and never experienced any trouble.