

RAY, KATE

INTERVIEW

9424

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

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RAY, MRS. KATE.

INTERVIEW.

9424.

Field Worker's name Ida B. Lanford.

This report made on (date) December 14, 1937. 1937

1. Name Mrs. Kate Ray.

2. Post Office Address Cordell, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 312 North Temple Street.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 29 Year 1879.

5. Place of birth Alvarado, Johnson County,
Texas.

6. Name of Father Charlie Best Place of birth Tennessee.
Other information about father Farmer.

7. Name of Mother Callie Truelove. Place of birth Alabama.
Other information about mother Housewife.

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 3

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Ida B. Lankford,
Investigator,
Dec. 14, 1937.

"AN INDIAN PIONEER HISTORY".

I, with my parents, left Alvarado, Johnson County, Texas, December 15, 1900. We landed in Cloud Chief, December 25, 1900. We came in covered wagons and on our way up here we picked lots of pecans.

After we got to Cloud Chief, we lived in dugouts on an Indian lease for two years; it was Old Jot Bull Bear's place. While on this lease we made enough to buy eighty acres of land. We raised cotton, corn, and kaffir corn. We sold corn for 20 cents a bushel, eggs for 5 cents a dozen and butter at 25 cents a pound.

When we left Alvarado we had enough meat to last for some time, but it spoiled on the way up here so we gave it to the Indians and when a cow, horse or hog would die we would always give them to the Indians. The Indians were nice to us because we were nice to them.

After I was married, I remember my husband and brother-in-law were going to play for an Indian dance. The men folks went on and my sister and I were home by ourselves and two drunk Indians came. My sister was scared. I told

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them to leave or I would shoot the gun. One of them said, "Shoot, it won't hurt me; I have been on the Wild West Show", but they soon left.

Lots of times we would be eating and the Indians would just come in and sit at the table and eat with us and when they got through, they would ask for a pie or cake to take home with them.

I have been in twenty-eight different states and Cordell, Washite County, Oklahoma, suits me best of all. We have a few sand storms, but we can clean up after them.

When we came to Oklahoma we did not have a thing but a wagon and team. My husband paid \$70.00 for the wagon and he worked six months to pay for the wagon and team of mules.

We have worked hard and at this time we have four hundred and fifty acres of land, all paid for. We have two brick buildings here in Cordell, a nice home and the best kept lawn in southwestern Oklahoma.

When we first came to Oklahoma, we had to get our wood the best way we could. The men would be gone night after night trying to get fuel and other provisions and we women would be home trying to burn green cottonwood and nearly freezing.

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We raised our own gardens and put up and dried enough vegetables for the winter use. We raised our hogs and had our own meat and lard.

I remember well when my husband would get up at two o'clock and I would cook his breakfast so that he could get off to work.

Sometimes the nights would be so stormy and we would be so tired we would set the alarm clock and about every two or three hours we would get up and look at the clouds.

I remember well coming to Oklahoma; we traveled the old Chisholm Trail and when we got to Lawton there was not a thing there but a red store so we stopped there and bought bacon and sorghum.

I well remember that the men freighted from El Reno, Weatherford, Mountain View and Pinco. We women stayed at home and cared for the stock and crops. My husband was summoned on petit jury at Lawton once and I stayed at home and a big snow storm came and I had a time to take care of the stock and crops.