

REID, SALLIE Reo

INTERVIL.

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

Field Worker's name Ethel Pfeiffer

This report made on (date) June 9, 1937

1. Name Mrs. Sallie Reo Reid

2. Post Office Address Blair, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Southeast part of Blair.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 21 Year 1877

5. Place of birth Palapinto County, Texas.

6. Name of Father James H. Watson Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother Mandy Sweazea Place of birth Texas

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 \_\_\_\_\_.

I came with my parents to this part of the country when I was eleven years old. Father bought out a man's right to file on a half section of land one mile east and one and one-half miles south of the present town of Blair. I still own a quarter section of the land my father settled on. I married the man that had taken up the section one-half mile north of where father and mother filed.

My late husband, Mr. Reid, came here to teach school and had already staked out his land and was living on it. Because he already had his dugout and fencing done when we arrived, Mr. Reid had a lot of time to help my father with the first necessary work of settling for the winter.

School teaching did not pay a great deal in those days for all the schools were subscription schools. They were usually taught in someone's dugout where there was the most room, and they lasted about three months. The tuition was often collected in cattle, meat, corn, or whatever the parents of the children happened to have a surplus of. I was married in my parent's dugout by a Primitive Baptist preacher in regular form, just as though we were back home in Texas. We had a big feed afterwards and all of the customary ceremony.

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We had rather a large dugout and had gotten gyp rock and put it into an iron pot and burnt it until it was a powder. We mixed the powder with water and had everything - walls, door posts, and all the inside and outside-gone over with this wash, so everything was beautifully white. My mother brought with her to this country a sewing machine, a cook stove, and a glass lamp. My husband's home boasted no such convenience. He punched the pith out of a corn cob and pulled a rag through it, filled a snuff bottle full of oil, placed the cob into it, and behold, our lamp. I had to cook on a fireplace. We had a dutch oven for baking and roasting whatever would not be roasted in front of the fire or in the ashes.

Mr. Reid had built himself a house for his wheat and this we converted into living quarters for several years. We put out a ten-acre orchard, had lots of berries and fruit, and garden stuff of all kinds flourished for us. We did not know anything about canning vegetables to keep them, but we dried a little of most everything, such as beans, peas, corn, okra, cabbage, collards and turnips; and potatoes we hilled up and saved for winter use. Meats

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we were never without, for we cured a lot and when anyone killed a beef it was always divided among us. There was always the wild game also; only antelope in the large game, but quail and prairie chickens were abundant.

By the time I was married there was a daily mail at Martha, about fifteen miles to the west of us, and we always took the Dallas Semi-Weekly News. We did not get to go for our mail every week but whoever went from the neighborhood brought everyone else's mail, so we got our paper rather regularly.

#### MEDICINE

There was very little opportunity for a doctor or much medicine in those days, so everyone had a medicine shelf and tried to keep it stocked, just as we did our pantry. On my medicine shelf was always found; castor oil, camphor gum, turpentine, castoria, paregoric, mustard, and always some kind of salve and liniment. We made our own cough syrups and also mixed our camphor gum with whiskey for camphor.

We made poultice out of peach tree leaves, and other things. Fortunately we never were bitten by a snake, or spider and had no accident, to speak of. As we lived

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along every day we educated our children. My oldest and youngest sons are both doctors.

I have often had four generations to sit down at my table to eat when my mother was visiting me. We are a hardy, happy lot, and are glad to have been pioneers in this wonderful state.