

ROBERTS, EDWARD J. (MRS.) INTERVIEW 9679

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

ROBERTS, EDWARD J. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW.

9679.

Field Worker's name Ophelia D. Vestal.

This report made on (date) January 14, 1938

1. Name Mrs. Edward J. Roberts.

2. Post Office Address Garonimo, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) Rt.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month July Day 19 Year 1879

5. Place of birth Tennessee.

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 2

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Ophelia D. Vestal.
January 14, 1938.
Investigator.

Interview with Mrs. Edward J. Roberts,
Geronimo, Oklahoma.
Born July 19, 1879.

On September 21, 1901, I came to Lawton on the train from Oklahoma City, where I had waited for several months for the opening of this country. The homes I saw in this new town were tents with wooden floors. Most people cooked on camp fires. At an early date the business people erected nice large tents.

The post office was a tent and we could see many saloon tents. There was a church tent, too. Soon we had much noise all day and night. The town developed very quickly, one could hear the taps of hammers all of the time.

We women had a hard time in those days but they were happy days. We didn't have much water, had it all to buy; we had to wash clothes and hang them on the tent ropes to dry; the wind sometimes turned into a dust storm in just a few hours, and there were no caves, though most of us needed one often because we couldn't tell much about these Oklahoma clouds.

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A very funny incident happened in the early days. A minister of our new town was expecting some relatives to visit in his home. He hitched two horses to his little spring wagon and went to meet them. As there were no bridges he had to cross creeks wherever he could drive down the banks. The back seats of the spring wagon were not fastened on. When the minister drove down the creek bank all was well, when the team started up, the back seats came off losing all the relatives in the water. This was sure a joke on all, but was taken good naturedly.

I used to have a friend who lived near an Indian named Pow-wa-hi. The man would bring his money to the white woman to keep for him saying "Comanche women, no savvy money, white woman heavy savvy." She put his money in the wardrobe and kept it until he called for it.

It seems when an Indian likes a person they will do anything for them and have confidence in them, too.

The Indians used to get white women to bake pies for them at their encampments, always paying for the help.