

THOMPSON, DELINA A. INTERVIEW 10131

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

#10131

THOMPSON, DELINA. A. INTERVIEW.

Field Worker's name Ethel Mae Yates

This report made on (date) February 28, 193 8

1. Name Delina Thompson

2. Post Office Address Elk City

3. Residence address (or location) General Delivery

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month July Day 28 Year 1861

5. Place of birth Wisconsin

6. Name of Father Henry Satterlee Place of birth Illinois.

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 _____

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An Interview with Delina Thompson, Elk City, Oklahoma
By - Ethel Mae Yates, Investigator.
February 26, 1938.

I, my husband, Othel Thompson, and our children came from Iowa to the Territory on January 1st, 1901; we came by train to Weatherford which was the end of the railroad at that time. We stopped there in Weatherford for three months and lived in a tent. My husband got a job of freighting and he freighted to Cheyenne and old Harmon. He laid the first lumber on the ground to start Elk City and hauled the first load of groceries to Elk City. These groceries were for Bob Keen who set up a twenty pound wooden cracker box for a counter and sold groceries over that while the men finished unloading. My husband hauled the first lumber to start Clinton.

While we lived in Weatherford the Indians would come to town every Saturday and stretch their tepees. I have counted as many as twenty tepees between our tent and the town. The squaws would come into our tent. I had a cook stove that we had brought with us and I guess that it was the first stove that these squaws had ever seen. They would go all around it and laugh and talk and

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make signs.

On April 7th, 1901, we filed on a claim one mile east and six miles north of the place where Canute is and nine miles from Foss, and we settled there in a tent. Soldiers Creek went through our place so we got our water from it. We burned some coal and some wood and lots of cow chips. We lived in this tent until it blew away on the night of the Foss flood, June 7th, 1903. My husband was at Foss that night, and as soon as the water went down enough I sent for him, but he couldn't return until late the following night. He said when he came on the top of a hill he could see a little light and he knew then that we had gotten into a little shack that was already on our claim. My husband had dug a dug-out back in a bank and had walled up the front with rock. He had made this for his shop so he took the dirt top off of this and put a shingle roof on it and we moved into this dugout and lived there for five years.

My husband was gone much of the time. He hauled freight from Parkersburg to Clinton and all over the

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country. He moved part of Texola to Leedy and part of it to Morewood. I went along to cook for the men and stayed in one of the houses while they were moving them.

My husband helped build the Frisco Railroad from Clinton to Cordell and I went too and cooked for a crew and lived in a tent. For four years of the time that we lived on the claim I took in washing and ironing. We built a brick furnace out in the yard and made a tank that held three barrels of water, and I ran two hand washing machines. I would go to Foss to get the clothes. I first started to going after them in a buggy but soon the buggy wouldn't hold the bundles so my husband bought a two-seated hack for me and fixed a sheet and bows on it. It was nine miles to Foss and I would get there just as it would be getting red in the East. The people in Foss got to where they would put their clothes out on their porches for me and I would pile them in bundles until the bundles would be higher than my head. I would be home washing by nine o'clock, and lots of times I would iron until two o'clock in the

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morning. Some months I would clear as much as \$60.00, but part of the time I had to hire a girl to help me and I had to pay her \$5.00 a week. I kept this work up for four years and then my health gave way and I had to give my work up.

It might be interesting to know that my husband moved all of the old town of Hammon to the site of the new town of Hammon.

We lived in our dugout for five years and then we bought the old Edwardsville School House and moved it over on our place and made a house out of it. We farmed some every year but didn't raise much and for some time there was no market for what we did raise. We lived on our claim until 1926 and we then moved to Elk City and my husband, Othel Thompson, died here in Elk City six years ago and is buried in the Edwardsville Cemetery.