

Notice of Copyright

Published and unpublished materials may be protected by Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code). Any copies of published and unpublished materials provided by the Western History Collections are for research, scholarship, and study purposes only.

Use of certain published materials and manuscripts is restricted by law, by reason of their origin, or by donor agreement. For the protection of its holdings, the Western History Collections also reserves the right to restrict the use of unprocessed materials, or books and documents of exceptional value and fragility. Use of any material is subject to the approval of the Curator.

Citing Resources from the Western History Collections

For citations in published or unpublished papers, this repository should be listed as the Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

An example of a proper citation:

Oklahoma Federation of Labor Collection, M452, Box 5, Folder 2. Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

BALDWIN, NELLIE BULLETTE

INTERVIEW #12073

318

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

Field Worker's name Mary D. DorwardThis report made on (date) November 8 19371. Name Nellie Bullette Baldwin (Mrs. J. W. Baldwin)2. Post Office Address Tulsa, Oklahoma3. Residence address (or location) 122 North Kanthas.4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 5 Year 18695. Place of birth Tulsa, Oklahoma6. Name of Father George Bullette Place of birth KansasOther information about father Delaware Indian7. Name of Mother Betty Payne Bullette Place of birth KentuckyOther information about mother White

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 5.

Mary D. Dorward, Field Worker

Indian-Pioneer History W-149

November 8, 1937

12073

320

NELLIE BULLETTE BALDWIN

A biographic sketch

From a personal interview with the subject
(122 North Xanthus, Tulsa, Okla.)

Nellie Bullette Baldwin (Mrs. C.E. Baldwin), daughter of George Bullette, early influential citizen of Tulsa, and Betty Payne Bullette, was born in Tulsa on the old Bullette ranch in the house which stood about where the Banfield Packing plant now stands, at 913 East Apache. That house was destroyed later and another home erected in the eight-hundred block on North Norfolk, near where Lowell school now stands. The old Bullette place extended along North Peoria from Haskell to Apache and west from Peoria to about the Osage line. Lowell school stands on part of the Bullette ranch.

George Bullette, my father, was born in Kansas about 1854. He never knew the exact date but it was in October when, as the Delawares so poetically phrased it, the nuts began to fall. His father died when he was quite small, and it was when he was about five that the Delawares were moved down into Indian Territory. When that took place George's mother took him back to Pennsylvania where she placed George in Carlisle School for Indians, then herself came on to the Territory, where she settled with the Delawares. The old ford over the creek at Alluwe was named Bullette ford for my father's people.

George Bullette remained in school at Carlisle until he was about seventeen or eighteen, when he left school and came to Indian Territory with his people. His first employment in the Territory was in the store of Mr. Campbell, father of Roberta Campbell Lawson, at Nowata. Here he received a good business foundation. After a few years in Nowata he went to Claremore and entered the employ of his uncle, also in a general store.

In 1882, having not long before married Betty Payne, father came to what is now Tulsa and opened a store of his own, which in reality antedates both the Archer store and the Hall store. At that time the Frisco extended only to the Verdigris River. Mother stayed in the store while father was out doing other things. Mother did not like staying in the store at all. Men who came in to the store sometimes became insulting when they found her there alone, so father arranged for another family to stay with her. Well, one day mother had a disagreement with the other family and put them out. That was rather unfortunate, because the furniture belonged to the other family and of course when they went the furniture went out with them. Mother and father then had to cook over an open fire outside and eat from a pine store box for a table until they could get their own furniture. To get furniture they had to ^{go} clear to Coffeyville, Kansas, a trip that took several days each way, since there was no railroad in that direc-

tion and freight had to be hauled overland in a wagon.

Soon after this, father gave up the store and started in the cattle business, moving to a place on Delaware Creek near what is now Bartlesville, but the climate was bad there, with much malaria, so they soon returned to Tulsa and established the ranch on North Peoria. I remember that in summer when dry weather would come, they used to take the cattle over into the Osage for pasturage. To get across the Arkansas River they had to go over a toll bridge and it cost father ten cents a head for all those thousands of head of cattle to cross the toll bridge.

Father could speak both English and Delaware and understood Cherokee and a little of the Creek language. He served as government interpreter for the Coe-wee-scoo-wee district and had, in fact, been interpreter for his teacher while still in school at Carlisle. When serving for the government he received five dollars per day, which was considered good pay in those days, since he could hire a man to look after his ranch for fifty cents a day. He once was sent as a delegate to Washington to transact business of some kind for the Delawares. Theodore Roosevelt was President at the time.

Father was an important influence in the development of early Tulsa. He was one of the original members of the Commercial Club,

a charter member of the first Masonic lodge and of the Eastern Star. He was one of the men who contributed to the building of the first hotel in Tulsa, the Alcorn, and was one of those who contributed a donation to induce the Santa Fe railroad to build to Tulsa.

Father was a charter member of the first Baptist church and mother was a charter member of the First Methodist church. When the Presbyterians were wanting to establish a mission on the north side of Tulsa, Dr. Kerr who was a good friend of father's induced father to donate land on which to erect the church and also to contribute a sum / ^{toward} the cost of the building, which was erected at the corner of North Norfolk and Independence streets. Then after the church was built Dr. Kerr wished father to join the church and become an elder in order to help get started. Again father obliged and remained a member of the Bullette Presbyterian church until his death in 1931.

When father and mother first came to Tulsa, it must have been about 1885 or '86, they had a visit one night from the Dalton gang. They seemed well-behaved and readily told who they were, and added that they wanted their supper. In those days no one ever thought of refusing to feed anyone even though he was an outlaw, so mother gave them their supper. When they were through one of them had

a tincup full of rings which he poured out on the table and told mother to pick out several as payment for their supper. Mother of course would have nothing to do with the rings which were stolen property, so then they wanted to give her a watch, also stolen property. Mother would have nothing to do with the watch either. Then father asked them "as man to man," not to ever come back to our house. He knew they were hunted and if ever found there would be a gun battle and he asked that as a protection for his family. They never did come back to our house.

When the Dalton gang held up the banks in Coffeyville father was there and saw the fight. He rushed up, and recognized one of the Daltons who had been shot and was dying. He asked father to get him a drink of water and when father did so the citizens of Coffeyville almost mobbed father, so incensed were they at the outlaws. Curiosity seekers tore all the buttons off the outlaws' clothes and tore the clothes almost all off their bodies for souvenirs.