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BOONE, L. C. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW

13435

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

BOONE, L. C. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW.

#13435

Field Worker's name Mary D. Dorward

This report made on (date) March 22, 1938

1. Name Mrs. L. C. Boone

2. Post Office Address Tulsa, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 720 South Elwood.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year 1886

5. Place of birth Tablequah, Indian Territory.

6. Name of Father R. D. Perry Place of birth Kentucky

Other information about father _____
Indian

7. Name of Mother Helen Ward Perry Place of birth Territory.

Other information about mother Part Cherokee.

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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Mary D. Dorward,
Investigator,
March 28, 1938.

Interview with Mrs. L. C. Boone,
Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Della Perry Boone, daughter of R. D. Perry and Helen Naomi and Perry was born near Tahlequah, Indian Territory, in 1886. Through her mother Mrs. Boone is part Cherokee and was born on the morning of the day the books enrolling each Indian headright were to be closed. The books were to be closed at sunrise and in order to get the new baby on the rolls her father leaped on to his horse and dashed off to the polls at Fort Gibson without even waiting until the child had a name. She could not be enrolled without a name so the official at the polls said, "Let's find her a name," at the same time taking up a list he had. He ran his finger down the list until he came to the name Della, and said, "Let's call her Della," and Della she became. This insured Mrs. Boone a payment under her headright, a payment being due at that time, and soon after she received her payment of about a hundred and fifty dollars.

Mrs. Boone lived at Tahlequah until she was about seven years of age, attending school at the Woodall school for one

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term. When she was seven the family moved to the country. about ten or twelve miles west of Claremore. Here the Perry family lived in a log cabin until a house could be built. Mr. Perry fenced in land and began farming. The closest trading point was Claremore, a day's trip away. Frequently, especially in spring, high water would prevent making the trip even when necessary, and when the river was passable there was always a toll to pay at the ferry. These considerations caused Mr. Perry to start a little store on his own land. Then he built a blacksmith shop and not long after secured a post office, naming the place Kli, in the meantime building a granary also. A doctor settled in the neighborhood, then another family or two, and soon there were enough children to justify building a school.

Until the school was opened at Kli Mrs. Boone attended a school in the country about two and a half miles from her home, walking the entire distance each way every day, across rough country with not even a road to follow.

About 1900 the Perry family moved to what is now Collinsville. The Santa Fe Railway had recently been built through that country, about a mile away from the town of

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Collins. Mr. Perry moved his store building, house, and blacksmith shop to the new settlement and opened for business. For some time a fight raged between the citizens of old Collins, some declaring they would not come to the new town even if there was a railroad there. The difference was finally settled and the town was moved to where Collinsville now stands. Until then the Perrys were the only people living in Collinsville.

Mrs. Boone attended school in Collins until an Indian school was established in Collinsville, where she attended until the Collinsville school system was established. She attended the Female Seminary at Tahlequah for three years.

Each member of the Perry family received an allotment. Mrs. Perry's included the family home in Collinsville. Mrs. Boone's was near Skiatook.

Mr. Perry served as U. S. Marshal while living at Eli. Later he served as mayor of Collinsville, as councilman, and as chief of police. The city of Collinsville has presented him with a park named in his honor. In this park he has erected a grandstand, a bandstand, numerous benches, besides planting many shrubs and trees.