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INDEX CARDS

Oklahoma Territory
Edmond
Schools
Teacher

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

Field Worker's name Harry L. Dreyer

This report made on (date) May 14, 1937

1. Name Mrs. George Brauer

2. Post Office Address Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 323 N.E. 14th

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year 1872

5. Place of Birth La Center, Minnesota

6. Name of Father Richard M. Henderson Place of birth England

Other information about father Irish descent

7. Name of Mother Margaret Doughlan Place of birth Ireland

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 _____.

INTERVIEW WITH MRS. GEORGE BRAUER
Okla. City, Okla.
By

Harry M. Dreyer.

"I, Mrs. George Brauer came from Minnesota to Oklahoma a few months after the opening in 1899. I came with Alva L. Woodward, my brother-in-law, and my sister, they staked a claim two miles west of Edmond. I was a sister-in-law of Mrs. Wahl, whose husband was in business in Edmond. He had a grocery store there and later a men's furnishing store.

My brother pioneered in Oregon, and told us what we ought to take along to the new country, Oklahoma. We chartered two cars together and sent down food, clothing, furniture and implements to begin with. When we arrived in Edmond, we had such beautiful weather, we could not believe it could be so nice and warm after being used to so much snow in Minnesota.

We used to go on picnics out in the woods. We would start some times early in the morning and walk for miles and miles through the country. The winter was so mild and we didn't have any snow until March, when a beautiful blanket of snow and sleet fell that disappeared in a couple of days. But it was beautiful with the sun shining on that blanket of snow and on trees and the small shacks in Edmond then. Mr. Wahl had the largest house there, and it was a two room house.

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I can remember the first girl I met in school. Her name was Suza Reynolds, and I was so glad to meet her, and always remembered her. I saw her not long ago and she told me I was the only one she remembered.

School was first held in business buildings where we could get space, until the Methodist Church was built, when they held school there. Later we moved to the City hall, and then into the State Normal Building at Edmond.

The Ladies Aid Society gave socials, picnics, and entertainments to raise money to pay teachers at the beginning of school. They also held quilting bees and put up a quilt by selling tickets. Mr. Classen bought the quilt for \$100. It was called a crazy quilt. Each member of the Ladies Aid made a block for the quilt out of remnants of goods they had about the house. The letters of Edmond, Oklahoma, were sewed into the quilt and the date.

There were no classes in those days, only one class. Farmers and all mixed together. Before there was a church building all denominations, Protestants, Catholics and Jews held church meetings together.

We used to have dances at Edmond, and everyone from around Edmond came. We had violin for music and all had a big time. They never charged any fee for the dance. Near-

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ly all of the settlers were young people who came to Oklahoma to make their home, and were all in good spirits and everyone enjoyed living here and had gatherings often for a big time. We had the square dances, and waltz and Schottisch dances.

I lived on the claim with my sister and brother-in-law, Alva L. Woodward. We used a cistern for water on the farm. Mr. Woodward sold his farm in 1893 and we made the run to Perry, Okla. I staked the street, of course I don't want that told. The streets were not laid out and we could not tell where the lots were located.

I taught school in Perry, Okla. We first held school in rented business buildings. The buildings were put up so rapidly, I always wondered how they managed to build them so quickly. In a few months after opening, they had the school building built. I first taught in the second and third grades. Subjects were taught up to the eighth grade. We had 12 schools in all at Perry, Okla., at that time. I had thirty pupils. Mr. Long was president of the School Board, and Tom Taylor, who was sheriff, then was one of the members of the School Board. I still have my school bell that I kept for a souvenir.

I wish to say this that Oklahoma people have always been

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~~church going people~~ and I always went to Sunday School every Sunday, both in Edmond and Terry, Oklahoma,

We then moved to Oklahoma City, in 1901, and have continued to live here since that time.