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BRITTLBERG, LEU. (Trs.)

1911/12

4923

INDEX CARDS

Chickasaw Nation

Ardmore-1887

Tent Hotel

Dugouts

Davis

BIOGRAPHY FORM

4928. 00112

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name John . Buschert

This report made on (date) July 27, 1937

1. Name Mrs. Lou Brittenberg

2. Post Office Address Lawia, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 20 Year 1868.

5. Place of Birth Georgia.

6. Name of Father Lyrd Martin Place of birth Unknown.

Other information about father Farmer.

7. Name of Mother Louisa Martin Place of birth Unknown.

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 4

John Daugherty,  
Interviewer.

July 21, 1937.

an interview with Mrs. Lou Brittenberg,  
a pioneer woman of Davis, Oklahoma.

My parents were Byrd and Lorena Martin. The places  
and dates of their birth are unknown.

I was born in Georgia March 20, 1849. My first  
husband and I came to Ardmore January 2, 1857, from  
Atlanta, Georgia. It was sleeting and snowing the night  
we came to Ardmore. When we got off the train we had no  
place to go. There was only one hotel. This was operated  
by an old man by the name of Buckles. The building was

built of cottonwood lumber, and this cottonwood had warped  
and shrunk until there were large cracks in the wall. We  
had to stay somewhere until daylight, so we walked over to  
this hotel. There was only a wood stove to warm by down-  
stairs, and it gave very little warmth in such an open  
building.

We were sent upstairs to sleep. There <sup>was</sup> no heat in the  
rooms at all, and there were fire bars in the one and only  
sleeping room the had. These had only two sheets and a  
"spider web" quilt. I said, "I'll not stay in such a place,  
we'll all freeze to death before morning". Two men sleeping  
in a bed back in the corner said, "Lady, you're right. We  
are almost frozen". We went back downstairs and out into

the cold to the depot. The agent gave me a few old quilts and plenty of coal to keep a fire in. We made a bed down on the floor of the depot, and I never slept better in my life. When daylight came my husband went in search of a place to eat breakfast. We found a tent-hotel called "Dad's place" and we ate there.

While we were eating some officers came in and looked around for whiskey. They found two gallons and carried it away with them. After breakfast my husband went in search of a place to live. He happened to meet Alva

Roff and asked him about a farm. Alva said, "You can move on to my ranch if you care to". Arrangements were made, and we started for the ranch, eight miles from Ardmore. We were driving a ranch team and it was so cold that ice hung all over my husband's whiskers. We had to walk part of the distance to keep from freezing. When

we arrived at the ranch, there were twenty-eight of us to live in three dug-outs. We stayed there for six weeks.

We slept late every morning, and had a late breakfast.

About four o'clock dinner was served, and about ten o'clock we ate a snack for supper and went to bed.

Each dug-out had a chimney. We cooked with a skillet and lid on these fireplaces. We later moved to a log cabin

on the ranch.

There were some boys by the name of Lee, who were cattle thieves. They had killed a brother of Mrs. Roff, and were stealing his cattle. He told Heck Thomas and Jim Taylor if they would kill these boys he would give each of them a thousand head of cattle. The Lee boys had lived in a small log hut without any doors. They crawled in through a window, and had post holes through which they shot at anybody approaching their cabin.

They finally moved out of this log hut and stayed in a ravine. One morning Heck and Jim, who was a deputy under Heck, rode up to our house for breakfast. Heck and I had been sweethearts in Georgia twenty years prior to this. We hadn't seen each other during this time, and neither of us knew the other was here. Heck had been

gone from Georgia, and we didn't know where he was until

he rode up and asked for breakfast. He told us he was

expecting to find the Lee boys soon. That day Heck and Jim were hiding near the ravine where the Lee boys were concealing themselves and they saw a man cautiously making his way toward the ravine, and as the Lee boys were eating their lunch, Heck shot one and Jim shot the other. The lunch carrier disappeared in the shrubbery and they didn't

find him. Mr. Roff drove up two thousand head of cattle and gave these cattle to these two officers.

My husband died during our stay on the ranch, and I moved on to a farm owned by Sam Brown.

I later married Mr. Brittenberg and we moved near Fort Arbuckle. We lived there for thirteen years. My husband furnished feed for the soldiers stationed at this fort, and ran a store, a mill and blacksmith shop.

We moved to Davis thirteen years ago, where Mr.

Brittenberg later died. I have lived in Murray County for twenty-six years.