

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

McKINNEY, LULA ELIZABETH.

INTERVIEW.

10655.

Field Worker's name Ethel V. Elder.

This report made on (date) May 6, 1938. 1938

1. Name Lula Elizabeth McKinney.

2. Post Office Address 212 South Broadway Street.

3. Residence address (or location) Marlow, Oklahoma.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month June Day 17 Year 1883.

5. Place of birth Stonewall, Pickett County, Indian Territory.

6. Name of Father James Throckmorton Doak. Place of birth McKinney, Texas.

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Lena Horton. Place of birth Indian Territory.

Other information about mother My mother was half Chickasaw.

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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10655.

Ethel V. Elder,
Investigator,
May 6, 1938.

Interview With Lula Elizabeth McKinney,
212 South Broadway, Marlow, Oklahoma.

My grandfather on my father's side was Joseph Doak; my father, James Throckmorton Doak, was born May 3, 1858, at McKinney, Texas, died in San Antonio, Texas, in 1928 and is buried at Duncan, Oklahoma. My mother, Lena Horton, was born in the Indian Territory close to Stonewall, in Pickens County. She was a full blood Chickasaw Indian. I was born June 17, 1883, at Stonewall, in Pickens County, Indian Territory.

My great grandfather Doak was a trader among the old Indians in Mississippi in the early part of the Nineteenth Century. In 1821 the Government started a treaty for the removal of the Indians westward and in 1831 the Indians, mostly Chickasaw, finally agreed to come to Oklahoma and Indian Territory, after making the treaty at Grandfather Doak's stand on the Natchez road in Mississippi. They agreed to move only on the condition that Grandfather Doak would

McKINNEY, LULA ELIZABETH.

INTERVIEW.

10655.

-2-

come with them; he was adopted into their tribe and was their Chief Counsel.

Later, Grandfather Doak was sent to Mexico for a pack-load of quinine for the Confederate Army. His belief in the south was so strong that he stood on a street corner in San Antonio, Texas, and traded gold coins for Confederate currency.

My father moved with his parents from Texas to Stonewall, Pickens County, Indian Territory, when he was about five years of age. He was raised with the Chickasaws in the old nation, and could talk their language as well as the English; he was adopted into their tribe and lived around them until he was grown and married my mother and then they moved in 1881 to a location up on Wild Horse Creek, settled there and established a home. My father was the first of three white men to settle in this section of the state. He and Mother lived there a short time, then went over to Texas to live but only stayed there a few months for my mother did not want to be so far away from her native people in the Territory and she grieved for them so much that my father moved back to her state. He went on with

MCKINNEY, LULA ELIZABETH.

INTERVIEW.

10658.

-3-

his cattle business in Texas and the Territory, coming home often to visit. He secured fifteen hundred acres of land in Smithville, Texas, in the early days which I now own.

There were huge cattle ranches and endless prairies at one time in Texas and the Territory. My father bought the rights to fifteen hundred acres of land for only about \$75.00. Father sold this land to the Marlow Brothers, who later disposed of it to Bill Wade who established the 'Red Ranch', but set aside the location for the town of Marlow, which was named after the Marlow boys' father. The Marlow boys were a very wild and tough bunch of boys.

Many years ago my father decided to come to Duncan, and open up a store some place in a rural settlement or start building up a small settlement so he decided on a location east of Duncan close to Wild Horse Creek where he had lived earlier in life. He called the place 'Doak's General Mercantile', which consisted of the post office and a small drug store in connection. He bought the place and built the store and ran it for several years, then sold a

MCKINNEY, LULA ELIZABETH.

INTERVIEW.

10655.

-4-

half interest to Bob Frensley and they operated the business a number of years, after which my father sold out to his partner and moved to the town of Duncan. The name of Doak's store was then changed to Velma and still stands today as the Velma store.

Father left Duncan for a short time and went to Stonewall in Pickens County close to Oil Springs to buy cattle and drive them to his large pastures as anyone could fence all the land he could handle at that time. Father bought the large Weaver and Nail Ranch that was part of the Big Pasture and consisted of very large acreage. He built an old-fashioned ranch house on the place that still stands today, but is being used for part of the barn.

The people around Stonewall freighted their goods from Gainesville, Texas, by pack teams and sometimes they would be gone for days on those trips.

After I was born my mother was never well and she did not live very long; I was the only child that she had and I was a baby when she died. My father wanted me to be raised by the white people so he let some white people have me to raise and as a consequence I don't know very much about

MCKINNEY, LULA ELIZABETH.

INTERVIEW.

10655.

-5-

my native kinsmen. I used to be so scared of the Indians when I was a little girl that when we would go to town or any place where there would be any of them I was so afraid of them I would just shake and could not speak one word. Now I wish that I knew more about them and their customs.

I was nine years old when I first started to school but I had learned lots at home-could count to a hundred and knew all my A.B.C.'s and write my name and read some. The first school that I attended was an Indian school close to Denison, Texas, called the Bloomfield Seminary; I went there four years. It was a very large frame building, which later burned and my teacher was Miss Stella Ward. After this building burned I attended the Academy at Denison, Texas, and completed my finishing work in four years. My teacher here was Miss Alice Harrell, now Mrs. William H. Murray (Alfalfa Bill's wife) who was an excellent teacher. After I was out of school I remained at home for two years.

I went to visit my father while he was running the old store at Doak's place and attended an old fashioned camp meeting there which was being conducted by Brother R. W.

McKINNEY, LULA ELIZABETH.

INTERVIEW.

10655.

-6-

Chandler. I was about nineteen years old when I joined the Baptist Church and after we moved to Duncan to live, I was organist for the church for two or three years.

While I was living in Duncan I met Mr. O. R. McKinney who had lived there thirty years and was Director of the First National Bank for a long time. We were married in 1906, lived there for a time and then came to Marlow. When the first bank was organized here he was first cashier and Joe Anderson was the first president. They named the bank the 'State National Bank of Marlow', now Mr. McKinney has controlling interest.

We have four children, two boys and two girls. My father left the larger part of his ranch to my oldest son and divided the remaining part among the other three; this is the Weaver and Nail Ranch property.

Mr. McKinney decided he would build his ideal type of a tenant house on the ranch of the children in the three corner intersection, it is a three room house, no front door, just one back door and the large back porch all screened, in, it is rather a quaint structure. My home is just in

MCKINNEY, LULA ELIZABETH.

INTERVIEW.

10655

-7-

line with the 98th Meridian Line in old Oklahoma.

There used to be a military road that ran from Fort Arbuckle to Fort Sill and the center was Stage Stand, which was four miles northwest of Duncan on what at that time was the Weaver and Nail Ranch, the owners of which were very wealthy cattlemen who lived in Fort Worth. The mail carrier on this route used to come out to Stage Stand and stop and spend the night and then go on next morning, as it was not safe to travel after night.