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BROWN, N. J. (Mrs.)

INTERVIEW

4597 - 159

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

Field Worker's name Virgil Coursey

This report made on (date) June 22, 1937 1937

Name Mrs. N. J. Brown

Post Office Address 303 North Hudson, Altus

Residence address (or location) _____

DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 10 Year 1860

Place of birth Tennessee

Name of Father J. H. Harrison Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about father _____

Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about mother _____

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and history 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 _____.

Virgil Coursey,
Interviewer,
June 22, 1937.

An Interview with Mrs. N. J. Brown
303 North Hudson
Altus, Okla.

Our neighbor, Tom Davis, came to Oklahoma in about 1895. We received numerous letters from him urging us to come out here. So in 1897 we left our home in Collin County, Texas, and started for Oklahoma. We had four children. Our household goods were loaded into a wagon, and we also brought four cows and three horses. We brought as much canned fruit and other things to eat as we could.

The cows were milked once a day, and the milk was placed in jugs. The constant motion of the wagon churned it, so that we had an adequate supply of butter along the way.

We settled six miles northwest of Altus. Mr. Davis had homesteaded a half section of land and we secured a hundred and sixty acres of that. Our first house was a dugout. After five years we hauled lumber from Vernon and built a one room house fourteen by sixteen feet. Four years later this was enlarged. We also bought more land as we were able.

Water from a well supplied the stock, but we had to haul water to drink for several years.

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I helped plant our first corn crop which was planted on sod. The corn was dropped by hand into holes punched by a stick. An excellent crop was harvested. The cotton seed in which our dishes were packed when we moved was used for seed for our first cotton crop. The cotton was hauled to Quanah to be ginned.

The foods eaten in those days were ~~practically~~ the same as today, except perhaps there were fewer desserts and more corn bread. We usually had good gardens.

The closest church in the earlier days was at Navajo over by the mountains. Dick Blain and a Mr. Blalock carried the mail. We got our mail at old Frazier. There was a route from Vernon to Mangum with a stop at Frazier to change horses.

We lived on what was known as the old Mobeetie Trail. Droves of cattle passed over this trail every day and many cowboys and other travelers stopped at our house.

One day I was home alone with Willie, my two year old baby, when a large number of Indians came up this Mobeetie Trail and up to where I was sitting with the baby in my arms. The Chief came up to me, saying something which I did not understand, but from his gestures I knew that he had asked for the baby. I drew back in fear and shouted, "No!" The

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Indian threw back his head and laughed heartily and left.

They met my nine year old son Roy, about a quarter of a mile from the house and I was afraid that they might take him along with them, for I had heard of such things. But they never offered to molest him. I hurried over to my neighbor's place and told them my story. They had lived here longer than I, and they said the Indians meant no harm and were merely trying to be friendly.