

McMINN, M. P.

INTERVIEW

7568

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INTERVIEW
BIOGRAPHY FORM

Form A-(S-149)

7568233

McMINN, MRS. M.P.

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Lula Austin

This report made on (date) September 18 1937

1. Name Mrs. M. P. McMinn

2. Post Office Address Durant, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 604 N. 3rd.

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

5. Place of birth _____

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

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.

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Lula Austin,
Interviewer,
September 16, 1937.

An Interview with Mrs. M. P. McMinn,
Durant, Oklahoma.

Milton P. McMinn, my husband, served in the Civil War, enlisting at the age of sixteen years. The last two years of the War he spent quite a bit of time at Fort Washita. He was never in real service, was sick in the hospital at Fort Washita six weeks with fever. The hospital was located where the old cemetery is now. Colonel Belknap was stationed there at that time. One day after he was able to sit up, he was sitting on the porch when he saw a man coming, leading a horse; how happy he was when he recognized the man as his father. He went home with him and remained a month. His oldest brother was killed in the war.

The soldiers' rations were poor; they did not receive the attention that the boys in the last war did. The only gift from the government my husband received during the war was what was called a round about jacket, that was all the government ever gave him. If he needed shoes, unless his people sent them, he had to wear old

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ones if they happened to be worn out. Many nights he stood on guard all night in the rain.

The soldiers were marched to Richmond, Texas, and disbanded there; it was far away from most of the boys' home. We never knew why they took them there to disband. On the way to Richmond they had little food for a week. They passed a wild berry patch and had a feast on them. My husband said his feet were so blistered it was a month before he could wear shoes. The night after he arrived home he told his mother she could put him anywhere to sleep, just so he was alone. He said he had slept with all kind of people and had a horror of sleeping with anyone.

Charlie Colbert lives where the officers' quarters were. Part of the cabin was there during the Civil War. He said he never could see why so much money was spent at Fort Washita on buildings as they were used very little.

I often went with my husband to Fort Washita. He would talk to me about the days he spent there as a soldier and point out different places of interest.

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In the fall of 1898, there was a piece in the Dallas News about the following ghost story which I heard Mrs. Peveto relate. My husband and I went to the Fort the Sunday after reading an account of the story in the paper. When we arrived there we went to the home of Mrs. Peveto, who lived in one of the old buildings that had a large fireplace. We were met at the door by a boy about nine years old who told us his mother was not at home, but who excitedly said, "The ghost came." We waited until his mother came home and this is what we heard from her:

"It was after supper and I was in the kitchen washing the dishes. I heard what I had heard many times before, a stone roll down on the roof stopping in the eaves. It was much louder that night. I paused from my dishwashing and said, 'In the name of God, what was that?' A silvery-white headless figure appeared in the doorway, placed a bony hand on the sill and said, 'Follow me and I will reward you'. I screamed and said, 'I can't, I can't,' and fainted. My husband who was in the adjoining room rushed in and found me on the floor." She also told us that she had seen this headless woman put beautiful baby clothes on the line.

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Mrs. Peveto moved away from Fort Washita and at one time lived in Durant.

Allen Toombs, who lives in the home of Mrs. McMinn, has a quilt (Tulip design) that was pieced by his mother's great aunt who came from Mississippi with the Indians. The quilt has her name, Ellen Murphy, and date when quilted embroidered on the quilt. It was made ninety-three years ago, and is in perfect condition.