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BUSBY, NANNIE

• INTERVIEW

8132

14

BUSBY, NANNIE. INTERVIEW

Form A-(S-149) 8132

BIOGRAPHY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

15

Field Worker's name Ruth Kerbo,

This report made on (date) July 28, 1937

1. Name Mrs. Nannie Busby

2. Post Office Address Mangum, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 520 North Georgia Avenue.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 27 Year 1885

5. Place of birth Crier Creek, Texas

6. Name of Father A. O. Goodman Place of birth _____

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Alice Scarborough 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 _____

Field Worker, Ruth Kerbo,
July 28, 1937.

Interview with Mrs. Nannie Busby,
Mangum, Oklahoma.

We came through Greer County several times before we came to file on land. We came on a visit and rode on the train to Quanah and came from there on the stage, or hack, which was only a two-seated affair, drawn by four horses.

Mr. Baumgardner drove the stage at that time. We were all day coming from Quanah. I remember the prairie grass was real high.

We came back in 1894 and settled on a farm near Russell in Greer County. Mrs. Hanson's family and the Crossland family were our nearest neighbors. Father tried farming but there was such an awful drought that we bundled up what few possessions we had and left. The Hanson family left with us.

We were away about one year, then came back and filed on a claim east of Mangum. I can remember gathering up cow chips for fuel.

We ate rabbits, prairie chickens, and one fellow tried

-2-

to eat prairie dogs. I was just a small child, but I remember seeing rabbits tacked up on the sides of the houses. The settlers did not have any other kind of meat, and when the men had some spare time they would hunt rabbits. This was in cold weather and they would keep the rabbits nicely tacked up on the sides of the houses until needed.

I remember Shorty Gray lived near us and he always had more rabbits tacked up on the side of his house than anyone else and if we needed meat and didn't have any we would always go to Shorty Gray's house and get a rabbit.

There was no fruit in the country except wild plums. We would go in the wagon and gather them, then cook them and mash the seeds out and spread the fruit out in the sun to dry. This was then packed in flour sacks for use through the Winter. We would take a portion of this dried fruit and soak it overnight, then cook it into plum butter. We called it plum leather, but it was very good.

I remember an epidemic of smallpox in the country and the settlers were terribly afraid of it. There was a one-room house out east of town about one mile and when a case broke out in the country the patient was taken to this

HUSBY, NANNIE. INTERVIEW .

8132

-3-

little house until he or she recovered. This was called the "pest house."

We came to Greer County from Corsicana, Texas, in 1894.

The first school teacher I had here in Mangum was Mr. Calhoun. One thing about this teacher that impressed me so much was that he smoked cigarettes during the study-period. Our seats were long, home-made benches, and Mr. Calhoun taught all the grades.

We saw some pretty hard times here and we left the country several times, but we always came back. My mother and I lived here alone.