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BARFELL, VIDA

INTERVIEW

10522

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BIOGRAPHY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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BARFELL, VIDA

INTERVIEW

10522

Field Worker's name Augusta H. Custer

This report made on (date) April 22, 1938

1. Name Miss Vida Barfell

2. Post Office Address Geary, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) Northeast part of Geary, Oklahoma

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 24 Year 1889

5. Place of birth Monon, White, County, Indiana

6. Name of Father W. G. Barfell Place of birth Indiana

Other information about father carpenter

7. Name of Mother Elizabeth Barfell Place of birth Indiana

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 3

BARFELL, VIDA

INTERVIEW

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Augusta H. Custer,  
Journalist,  
April 22, 1938.

An Interview with Miss Vida Barfell,  
Geary, Oklahoma.

My parents came from Monon, White County, Indiana. We left there in October 1898, and arrived in Oklahoma Territory in December. There were two wagons of us and we took our time as the roads were bad and the weather terrible. We had rain, snow and sleet. When we would stop for the night we had a small tent that we would set up and a small stove to cook on. We all slept in the wagons. Many nights we suffered with the cold, although we had feather beds, but not sufficient cover for the cold winds blowing through the wagon boxes.

Father leased some Indian land and we farmed two years. Then decided to come on farther west into Blaine County. We lived on a lease for two years and then moved into Geary.

Father was a better carpenter than a farmer. He helped Will Reynolds on many of his contracts. He did carpenter work on the Methodist Church. He was an expert

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saw filer and was known as "Daddy Barfell." He helped to build the funeral home and worked at the pump station of the Geary City water works. He served for years as a volunteer fireman. He was City Marshal two terms. He also served on the City Election Board for years.

I remember when Mr. Cross was killed by some outlaws. It happened just about a quarter of a mile east of where we now live. Mr. Cross was serving in the capacity of Marshal at the time he was shot.

I remember when Forest Welborn was killed. He was supposed to have known too much against some outlaws, and no one knows just where he was killed, but his body was dumped out, not far south from where Mr. Cross was killed.

There were four children of us—two boys and two girls, all of whom are living. My sister, a widow, Mrs. Mertz, lives with Mother and me. Mother was eighty-four the third day of March and can just walk around the house. Her hearing is good but her eyes are not very satisfactory.

For the last five years we have been receiving help from the Government. I sew in the sewing rooms when I can and with the small amount Mother receives from the Old Age Assistance, we manage to live.

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Miss Barfell has lived at home all her life and helped to care for her mother since her father passed away. She is a woman who seldom asserts herself. Has always been told by some one just what to do and done it the way they wanted the work done. She has very little education and is satisfied with little and this is what she has.     Augusta H. Custer, Journalist.