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BARNETT, LENA.

INTERVIEW

#7838

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LEGEND & STORY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

BARNETT, LENA

INTERVIEW.

7838

Field worker's name Margaret McGuire

This report made on (date) October 15, 193 7

1. This legend was secured from (name) Mrs. Lena Barnett

Address Eufaula, Oklahoma.

This person is (male or female) White, Negro, Indian,

If Indian, give tribe Freedman - female

2. Origin and history of legend or story Her father and mother's early days in Territory and her life in Territory days.

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 3

BARNETT, LENA

INTERVIEW.

7838

An Interview with Mrs. Lena Barnett, Eufaula.

By - Margaret McGuire - Investigator.

October 15, 1937.

My mother was a slave of Mr. Lee Stidham's father before the Civil War. When the War began Mr. Stidham moved to Texas and carried all of his slaves with him.

When Mr. Stidham moved to Texas my mother went with him and about the same time Mr. Lee Stidham was born. Mrs. Stidham died when Lee was an infant and my mother nursed him and my brother too, and raised Lee until he was grown. Mr. Stidham moved back to the Territory after the Run and my mother came back to the Territory with him. My father was a Cherokee Indian by birth but registered in Muskogee with the Creeks.

He was a relative of James Ross of Muskogee.

My father and mother lived near here until they died.

I married a Creek Indian named Barnett. He had an allotment west of Eufaula where we have lived all the time with the Creek Indians.

The Snake Indians were called "Snakes" because they did not want to register or file with the other

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Indians and one Indian man seemed to be a ruler among a lot of others. They were his followers and would do anything he asked them to do, so he was called "Crazy Snake" and he would never file, but he was filed for by the Commissioners.

Crazy Snake was opposed to making the Territory a state. We had rather not have made the Territory a state but we filed.

We went to Okmulgee to file; we went in a wagon and crossed the North Canadian River about four or five miles northwest of Eufaula at Burny's Ferry.

It took us two or three days to go and return because the roads were so bad.

When I was a girl I went to an Indian school about four miles west of Eufaula called Tallewache, which means "dark night". Some man from Eufaula taught there then, but there is no school there now, it has been abandoned for years.

Our stomp ground is gone too. We used to go to the Hickory Stomp Ground for stomp dances and there was

an old Indian church there too, but it is all torn down and gone.

The first white man I knew in the Territory was Mr. C. E. Foley who had a store at Eufaula and we would come in to buy our goods from him.

Mr. Burdett had a store too and Mr. C. H. Tully.

There were few stores over the country, but we had better times before Statehood because we were free to do what we wanted to. We could turn some hogs or cows out in the woods and we would own a part of all that ran out and we could go and drive up a fat hog or a milch cow and kill it. We could get all the wild turkeys we wanted and no one would say a word about it. We did not have to work so hard for a living then and had plenty of meat and wild fruit and we raised corn for our bread.
