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BAUMGARDNER, MRS. W. R.

INTERVIEW Form A-(S-149)

8405 72

BIOGRAPHY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Eunice M. MayerThis report made on (date) August 24 193 71. Name Mrs. W. R. Baumgardner2. Post Office Address Mangum

3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 13 Year 18775. Place of birth Saxahachie, Texas6. Name of Father John R. Byers Place of birth North Carolina

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother Amanda Grissom Place of birth Texas

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 \_\_\_\_\_.

Interview with Mrs. W. R. Baumgardner  
Mangum, Oklahoma.

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Mrs. W. R. Baumgardner, of Mangum first saw this section when she was eight years old. She made the trip to Greer county with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John R. Byers, in 1885.

The trip from Cleburne, Texas, was made in a covered wagon. Mr. Byers had traded for a herd of sixty five horses, which he brought to the new country. After arriving here, the family camped two months on the present site of the R. C. Hannah residence on North Pennsylvania avenue.

The family made camp for awhile on Turkey Creek, so the stock could be fattened for the market. Horses became thin on a long trip, the emigrants discovered.

The family then built a one roomed house near the site of the Edison school building on North Oklahoma Avenue.

Preaching services were held in the house before the occupants moved in, it was recalled. Lumber for the dwelling was freighted from Wichita Falls, Texas.

Later, the family lived on the present site of the Baptist church. Professor Nigh taught the first school in Mangum in

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a dugout south of the present Lovett building. Later a one room school was built on the Edison school grounds.

In 1897 Miss Byers was married to W. R. Baumgardner, also a pioneer citizen of this section. Mr. Baumgardner operated a stage coach line from Mangum to Boggy Texas, where another stage carried mail, express and passengers to Quannah, Texas.

Mr. Baumgardner brought the news of the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, awarding Greer County to Oklahoma in 1896.

There were no newspapers with wire or telegraph service in those days, and news was slow in traveling.

Although the Indians were sometimes reported as going on the warpath, most of the settlers maintained a friendly attitude toward them. Visiting Kiowas swapped blankets and mocassins with the settlers.

The advent of a band of Indians into the community always induced some settler to kill a beef.

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Mr. and Mrs. Baumgarder are numbered among the representative pioneers of old Greer county. Byers Avenue, extending from the oil mill to West Lincoln street, was named after Mrs. Baumgarder's father John R. Byers.