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BEGGS, ABBIE.

INTERVIEW.

8469

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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INTERVIEW

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Field Worker's name Elizabeth L. Duncan

This report made on (date) August 17 1937

1. Name Abbie Nettia Beggs
2. Post Office Address Enid, Oklahoma
3. Residence address (or location) 1209 W. Broadway
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month April Day 22 Year 1863
5. Place of birth Lincoln, Kansas, Lincoln County.

6. Name of Father Johnathan Stout Pitcher Harrison County,
Place of birth West Virginia
Other information about father Born February 3, 1833.
7. Name of Mother Louisa Prudence Webb Harrison County,
Place of birth West Virginia
Other information about mother Born April 4, 1832

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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Elizabeth L. Duncan,
Interviewer,
August 17, 1937.

An Interview with Mrs. Abbie Nettia Beggs,
1209 W. Broadway, Enid, Oklahoma.

Mrs. Beggs' father, J. S. Pitcher, came to Kansas
- from Bridgeport, West Virginia. Then the opening of
the Cherokee Strip was announced and John, Jr., Henry,
Fenimore, and Mr. John Pitcher, Sr., and George Beggs
came down to the line in a covered wagon, bringing quite
a few supplies and ^atent.

On September 16, 1893, Mr. Beggs started out on
horseback to stake his claim. It took him one hour and
thirty minutes to reach the place where he staked. The
place was located on 15-27-6, five miles west and one
north. Mr. J. S. Pitcher located five miles west and
three miles south, John Pitcher, six miles west and one-
half mile south, Fenimore, five miles west and one mile
north on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$. All these locations were taken from
Medford.

Mr. Beggs camped a month on the place and waited
until the time of the registration. He had to stand in

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line for two days. On the second day while standing in line a fellow came in and pushed Mr. J. S. Pitcher back and caused him to fall. Mr. Beggs told the man to go to the back of the line and the man told Mr. Beggs not to 'butt in' or he would lay him out, so Mr. Beggs politely laid him out and he then brought Mr. Pitcher back to his rightful place. They went ahead and registered and started back to their homestead. Mr. Pitcher and Mr. Beggs went back to Lincoln, Kansas, to get their families.

The last of November the Beggs family started out for their homestead, bringing with them a cow, four horses some household goods, a sod plow, a dozen chickens, one dog and two cats. They lived in the tent until Mr. Beggs could build a barn, then moved into the part of the barn that had been boarded up and put a floor in it and the horses and cow occupied the other part. That spring Mr. Beggs broke out ten acres and later that fall fifteen acres more were broken out. At the same time Mr. Beggs started to build a granary and finished it some time during the winter. In March they moved into the

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granary which was a little better than the barn. In the spring of 1895, they broke out twenty more acres and Mr. Beggs planted corn and kaffir corn which was burned up. That fall they planted wheat. The only fuel they had to burn was cow chips. Mrs. Beggs and her son, Earl, would go out with gunny-sacks and bring the chips in and pile them in a dry place in the barn.

Sometimes all they would have for coffee was kaffir corn ground up and the pinto beans which had been brought with them. They were worm-eaten but the Beggs' family had to eat them. In 1896 they had a bumper crop of wheat and corn. In 1897 they had another bumper year. In the spring of 1898 they built a four-room house.

The well was "witched" by J. S. Pitcher, Mrs. Beggs' father, but later they sold the farm and bought a farm southeast of Medford.

When Mr. Beggs' father died he left a farm and some money. The money which was given to Mrs. Beggs' husband, he gave to her and told her that it was hers, so Mrs. Beggs purchased a farm near Enid. Later, Mr. Beggs wanted Mrs.

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— Beggs to sell this farm as it would not make its taxes but she said she would not sell it for awhile. Later, there was some oil activity and the Garber people bought the lease and drilled and they struck oil on this farm and the Beggs were rated as Millionaires. The family then moved to Enid where Mrs. Beggs resides with three of her children, and three of her children have homes of their own.