

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

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ESLY, LEAH

INTERVIEW

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Field Worker's name Ethel E. PalmerThis report made on (date) June 22 19371. Name Leah Esly2. Post Office Address Leedey, Okla.3. Residence address (or location) Rural Route4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 13 Year 18675. Place of birth Webster, Kosciusko County Indiana6. Name of Father George Schneider Place of birth Germany

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Lancy Jane Bofman Place of birth Pennsylvania

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 _____.

Ethel E. Palmer
Interviewer
June 22, 1937

Interview with
Leah Esy
Leedey, Okla.

I was in the Old Oklahoma Territory Run, April 22, 1898. Some of my relatives were with me. We camped on the line in a tent. At 12:00 o'clock noon, when the soldiers fired their guns, the horses were turned loose. We were in a two wheel cart. My sister filed on land near Mullallan. I lived there with her. We lived in a dugout and made what little furniture that we had.

Guthrie was our trading post. It was a distance of nineteen miles. We would go once a month to buy our supply of groceries. Sometimes before the month was up we would run out of provisions; when we did, we stayed out.

We lived five miles from Mahanah Parker. He had seven wives and had a seven room house. It was a big tall white house, with a red cone on top of it. Around this house was a strong eight strand barbed wire fence. I have been to their house. Mahanah was a very nice fellow.

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His favorite wife was Too Nicey. She baked bread for him. Each wife had a room of her own, each room was kept very nice and clean.

Quansh had a bunch of the prettiest horses. They were real fat. When he died they took his favorite gun, horse and everything that he owned, and buried it with him. His grave was robbed; they never did know who robbed it.

At Lawton an Indian got drunk and got on the railroad track. The train ran over him, cutting both legs off. The Indians all got the news and all went to the depot to meet him when his body was brought in on the train. When the train came in, everyone was just as quiet, you could have heard a pin drop. When they took him from the train, those Indians began crying and taking on. The whites began to scatter, until they found out that they were just crying and grieving.

I had Indians for neighbors and they were very nice to me. They had a big store; Indians, of course, were the only ones that traded there.

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All we had to farm with was a sod plow. Our principal crops were corn and maize; we planted this by hand. We drove cows to the plows and wagons.

Once we got without lard, salt or anything to eat and for one whole week we lived on boiled fish and nothing to season them with. In the winter we'd burn corn to keep warm by.

The cowmen would take fences down and turn their cattle loose to graze. We surely had terrible times those days. I've gone hungry and thirsty many a day.