

FIELDER, LULU RAINET

INTERVIEW

#8271

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

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Field Worker's name Merrill A. NelsonThis report made on (date) August 3 1937A cousin of the author, George Rainey1. Name Mrs. Lulu Rainey Fielder2. Post Office Address 213 W. Locust, Enid, Oklahoma3. Residence address (or location) Same4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day 5 Year 18915. Place of birth Albany, Missouri6. Name of Father John Rainey Place of birth Albany, MissouriOther information about father Farmer7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth Cuyrus, OhioOther information about mother Mother of eight children.

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 6.

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Merrill A. Nelson,
Interviewer,
August 3, 1937.

An Interview with Mrs. Lulu Rainey Fielder,
213 W. Locust, Enid, Oklahoma.

We came from King City, Missouri to Oklahoma in 1890. This was shortly after the opening of Old Oklahoma. King City is in Gentry County in northwest Missouri.

When we came through Enid, there was nothing here but one little store.

We settled twelve miles east of Hennessey. We had two horses, one blind in one eye and the other totally blind. We moved to a place southeast of Columbia.

At first we lived in an eight by ten tent. There were Father and Mother and five children. The next day after we arrived Father decided to burn off the grass. After he had burned off the grass, they looked around and could not find me. They started to search for me with horses. They found me under the bed.

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My father started to haul lumber to build a house at once. One night Mother became frightened at some Indians and started for the neighbors. She got off the road and in the darkness was lost. We children were with her. Finally she saw a tiny light the size of a spark. It was our own tent. She came home and would never leave that tent again at night.

One morning we got up and started breakfast. Mother went to the cellar for bread. There was none there. Mother said: "I know there is some in that cellar". She looked but could not find it. Years afterwards some men confessed they had taken the bread. It was a band of men who were looking for Dick Yeager.

The men who finally caught Dick Yeager, the outlaw were Willie Fox and a man named Smith. When they overtook him in a cornfield, he raised up and reached for a gun. Then they shot him. He did not die till the next day. I saw Dick Yeager, the outlaw, once at Sheridan.

Soon after this a band of about five bandits followed by five sheriffs came by our place. The bandits stopped at our place. The sheriffs came up and looked

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under the bridge. The outlaws saw them and hurried away. One of them went to Harbell's or Harpers. They did not capture him. Another bandit named Willetts was killed. He was on horseback. His brother was in a wagon.

They had chased ~~them~~ into a cornfield. The deputies had been given orders to shoot. The deputies said: "Hands Up." The bandits started firing. They shot one outlaw in the hand, killed another and the third surrendered. The outlaws said afterwards that they had their good guns in the back of the wagon, and if they had used these the deputies would have had another story to tell. The one who was shot in the hand went to the creek crying for water. They took the body of the dead bandit and the two bandits who were wounded to Kingfisher. When they shot the one of the bandits who died, the other one came over to him and tried to revive him. "This is my brother", he cried. He tried to get him to speak but in vain.

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Father built a sod house after we had lived in the tent awhile. Then we constructed a house of sawed lumber.

We went to a sod schoolhouse. We used McGuffey's text books. Our courses were elementary. We studied reading writing and arithmetic. We had boards painted black for black boards and benches made out of rough boards, two inches thick.

Our first teacher was the Reverend Mr. Savage's daughter. Her sister was the first person buried in the Sheridan Cemetery. The Cemetery was twelve miles east and a half-mile north of Hennessey. We lived twelve miles east and a half mile south of Hennessey.

George Rainey had a store in Sheridan, one mile out from Hennessey. There were several Indians who came to this store to buy things; they always paid for the things they took away.

One form of social recreation was the quilting bee; at the older quilting bees we used to tow in the stitches.

We used to go to church - a distance of two miles

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and a half every Sunday. It was a Baptist-Christian Church. Services were held in a good looking but rather old frame building. They hauled lumber for it from Hennessey.

One time Brother Schliemann came out from Hennessey. It was just after the Spanish-American War. He brought home some pictures and gave a lecture. He charged ten cents admission. They wanted him to show the pictures twice. The second time something went wrong. The machine blew up and set fire to the church. All the men rushed to the back door. It was before the day when it was compulsory to make doors open out. An old lady walked into the bunch of men shoving her way right and left.

I was at the front of the church. The only way out was to climb on top of the benches. I started to do this. The seats were two feet apart and down I went but I got out of the burning church. Several jumped out the windows.

We would also have play parties. We would sing "Old

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Dan Tucker. There would be forty or fifty people at these parties. We would all go to church. One night we had a party. Bell Rainey had been sick. But as he was not sick enough to lie down, he came to the party. The next day he came to our house and said: "John, I guess I have exposed all of you to the smallpox." All but one of those who were at the party took the smallpox. Bell Rainey had taken it from a neighbor. We used castor oil for medicine. We never used much however as we were seldom sick.

We were all strong for Temperance. We were all there when Carrie Nation gave her lecture at Hennessey.

The place east of Hennessey I have been telling you about was homesteaded first by George Raine. Then Father homesteaded it.