

FITZPATRICK, JIM (Mrs.)

INTERVIEW

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

Field Worker's name Thad Smith, Jr.

This report made on (date) September 24, 1937 1937

1. Name Mrs. Jim Fitzpatrick  
 2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Oklahoma  
 3. Residence address (or location) 710 South 11th Street  
 4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 25 Year 1861  
 5. Place of birth Kentucky

6. Name of Father John Maupin Place of birth Kentucky  
 Other information about father Buried near Chickasha, Oklahoma  
 7. Name of Mother Mary J. Williams Place of birth Kentucky  
 Other information about mother Buried near Chickasha, Oklahoma

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.

Interview with Mrs. Jim Fitzpatrick  
Chickasha, Oklahoma  
710 South 11th Street

Interviewer -- Thad Smith, Jr.  
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149  
September 24, 1937

I came with my folk, by train, from Kentucky to Caddo, Indian Territory, in 1874.

My father had chartered a car in Kentucky, and shipped his wagon and team, and a few other things to Caddo, by rail.

When we arrived at Caddo we hitched our horses to the wagon and traveled overland to Pauls Valley, where my father leased a farm from Smith Paul.

The house on the farm was a small log house that had a dirt floor. In one end of the room there was a big fireplace. The chimney was made of clay and small sticks. The sticks layed in the clay, kept it from cracking and falling apart.

The roof was covered with homemade board shingles. We had a small building in the yard close to the house. The walls were made of logs and the roof was just a

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framework of poles and covered with brush. The brush made a shade but it wouldn't turn water. We used this building for a summer kitchen. We carried our drinking water from a dug well a quarter of a mile distant.

My two sisters and I went to a subscription school in Pauls Valley which was taught by a man teacher. There were about fifteen children going to the school. We studied McGuffey's books, and we used slates to do our work on.

Our schoolhouse had a dirt floor.

Miller and Green ran a general merchandise store and kept the post office at Pauls Valley. They freighted their merchandise from Caddo. George Laflin did most of the freighting with ox teams and pole tar wagons.

The mail was brought to Pauls Valley from Caddo, by stage; from Pauls Valley, the stage went to Anadarko. The stage made a complete trip about once a week, and nearly always had a passenger or two.

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My father raised a good corn crop on Mr. Paul's farm which we shelled with a hand cheller, and sold to the government, delivered at Fort Sill.

I helped my father plant the corn. After the rows had been layed off with a Georgia Stock we walked and dropped the corn. We were followed by someone with a hoe who covered the corn.

Smith Paul had a fifteen hundred acre farm.

In 1876, we moved to Mrs. Margaret Moncrief's farm on the Little Washita River, about eight miles southeast of where Chickasha is now. My father farmed there.

In 1880, I was married to Jim Fitzpatrick, by Dave Johnson, a Christian Minister. We lived on my husband's ranch which was located on the Washita River, about six miles southeast of where Chickasha now is.

My husband was a partner of Frank Murray and Wyatt Williams, in the cattle business. Mr. Williams took one herd to Kansas and shipped them to market, and kept all the money, which was \$40,000. He lived in Texas,

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and he sent his cowboys to our ranch to get the rest of the cattle. My husband knew they were coming and he sent a man to meet them and tell them to stay off the ranch if they wanted to avoid a fight, as my husband didn't intend to give up any more cattle. The men came on and one of Mr. William's men was killed instantly and one died later from the effects of a leg wound.

We lived near what was called the Rock Crossing on the Washita River, where the Chisholm Trail crossed the river.

Each Spring, from 1880 until about 1890, Texas cattle were started moving North and would continue until late in the Summer.

We bought our ranch supplies from Frank Clayton who ran a general merchandise store at Erin Springs.

We were bothered occasionally by horse thieves who came from Texas and stole our horses.

Heck Thomas and Chris Madsen were two of the

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United States Marshals who worked around near our ranch. About the only law breakers they ever caught were whiskey peddlers. They took these men to Fort Smith for trial.