

FORSTER, G. C. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW

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

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Field Worker's name Mildred B. McFarland,

This report made on (date) May 19 1937

1. Name Mrs. G. C. Forster,

2. Post Office Address Edmond, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 15 North Broadway

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month October Day 3 Year 1865

5. Place of birth Kokomo, Indiana.

6. Name of Father --- Place of birth ---

Other information about father ---

7. Name of Mother --- Place of birth ---

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 4

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Mildred B. McFarland,
Field worker,
May 18, 1937.

An Interview with Mrs. G. C. Forster,
15 North Broadway,
Edmond, Oklahoma.

My husband came to Oklahoma April 22, 1889, and made the Run. He took town lots at 2nd and Broadway here in Edmond. He came in on the fourth train from Kansas City and was held up for several hours at Guthrie. Then, on the first one leaving south from there, he came to Edmond. I came May 20, 1889.

We built the first grocery store here, calling it, "Pioneer Grocery." We had rooms above the store for our living quarters, and we sent back to Kansas City for store supplies. A great many Indians traded with us. They were blanket Indians from the Kickapoo Reservation, about fifteen miles east of Edmond, and were very friendly towards us. The Kickapoo Indian Reservation was thrown open for settlement September 22, 1891. Almost all the citizens of Edmond drove over to witness the Run.

The first church in the State was the Catholic Church, built on East 1st in Edmond. Part of it still stands.

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Edmond also had the first school, and it was located on 2nd Street. Before the schoolhouse was built the women of the town,--about fifteen in number--gave socials, bazaars, entertainments, etc. to raise money to hire a teacher.

We had school in empty buildings until the main schoolhouse was built. June 22, 1889, the citizens organized the first Sunday School.

Before our church was built we held union meetings in some recently completed store buildings. If one was occupied by the next Sunday, we went to another. We held services in the schoolhouse until we had a church of our own. The Methodists were the first to branch out for themselves. Their church was located on North Broadway and burned down in 1936. A tablet marks the place.

There were several ladies who had their own looms and would weave rag carpets for the people. The first white child born after the Run was named Anna Edmond Younge, a granddaughter of James Brown, an '89er. He made the Run and brought in the first lumber and hardware business.

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The first hotel was the Central on 1st Street. Part of it still stands. As there were only fifteen women here at the Opening, we had our pictures made. Two only are left now; Mrs. L. G. Wall of Oklahoma City and I. I was the youngest and had the honor of being president of the first Ladies' Aid.

We drove a horse and buggy. One day we drove to Oklahoma City to a Sunday School convention. There was a terrible rain storm that evening, and, as there were no bridges over Deep Fork River, we had to stay for several days in town.

We had a very serious epidemic of scarlet fever in the Fall of 1890. There were many deaths.

On the first Thanksgiving night in 1889, all the men went hunting and brought home wild turkeys, quail, and prairie chickens. All the ladies cooked a big dinner and served the town.

My husband made the Run on the Cherokee Strip. He went in from the south and took up a town lot at Perry on which he built a store building.

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There were very few men left in Edmond at that time,
but most of them came back later.