



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

Field Worker's name Pearl E. Parker.

This report made on (date) June 10. 1937

1. Name Mrs. Martha Ford.

2. Post Office Address Cherokee, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 120 4th.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December. Day 20 Year 1856.

5. Place of birth East Tennessee.

6. Name of Father James Rederford Place of birth X

Other information about father Died in 1893.

7. Name of Mother Jane Marshall Rederford. Place of birth Tennessee.

Other information about mother Died when I was eight

years old.

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 2

Pearl E. Parker,  
Field Worker.

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An Interview With Mrs. Martha Ford,  
120 4th Street, Cherokee, Oklahoma.

Opening of the Cherokee Strip and  
Later Settlements.

I was born in the state of Tennessee, and came to Oklahoma with my parents at the opening of the Cherokee Strip, September 16, 1893. I was married in Missouri at the age of nineteen, and filed a claim at Byron, Oklahoma, in Alfalfa County. We traveled by wagon, with my husband's uncle, and crossed the Missouri River on a ferry boat. The Run was made in a wagon, and we staked off our claim, the signal being a rifle shot. We then built a large one room/<sup>frame</sup>house in which to live. Our trading post was Atlantic, Missouri. We had to go about five or six miles and we saw quite a few Indians. They used to try and trade different things with us. That was around the Chickasha River in Summers County. The Indians were very bad about stealing, so had to watch them. Our well was open and had a pulley by which it operated.

Our fuel was wood and corn cobs. Our farming was done with horses, and we did our planting by dropping the grains by hand.

Our furniture was a wooden bedstead, one oak dresser and oak table. The dresser I still own, and am using.

It is about sixty-five years old and was given to me by my mother, Mrs. Jane Marshall Rederford.

Our meats were composed mostly of prairie chickens and quails.

I still have an old reed rocking chair belonging to Mr. Ford's mother, which must be eighty or ninety years old at least.

We often went to camp meetings and also to the negro meetings. We would have four or five miles to travel by wagon, and our music was mostly violins, and it was very sweet.

I wore the hoop dresses and bustles in those days.

Roads were very poor at that time, and mail was carried by horse back.

My age at this time is eighty-one years and six months.