

FOSHEE, MARY

INTERVIEW

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

Field Worker's name Grace Kelley

This report made on (date) June 18 1937

1. Name Mary Foshee

2. Post Office Address Hitchita, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) street
Across/ from the White School.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day 14 Year 1855.

5. Place of birth Randall County, Alabama.

6. Name of Father William Berryhill Place of birth: Alabama or
Georgia.

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Jane Saylor Place of birth Don't know.

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 5 pages.

Grace Kelley,
Field Worker.

Our Trip From Alabama in 1898.
Interview of Mary Foshee, Hitchita

I didn't even know that I was an Indian until I was almost grown, as my mother died when I was real small. I had always read and heard about how the Indians stole white children during their raids and how they killed every white grown person they could find. When my husband decided to come to the Indian Territory I was scared to death. My oldest daughter was grown and had a husband but no children. I had a little blond girl and one that would pass for an Indian anywhere. My husband was a perfect blond. I enjoyed our trip as much as possible until we got to the border of the Indian Territory and I can't tell how we got to our destination I was so scared. It wasn't funny then for I was the most miserable person on earth.

There were two families and two wagons; one had a mule team and the other was an ox team. We came to Fort Smith where we crossed the river, from there we went to Webbers Falls where we crossed again. (Arkansas River)

We bought our supplies at the little stores and little towns but to save me I can't remember their names.

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Our first stop was at Checotah where there were four or five stores, gin, mill, blacksmith shop and Post Office. It was the main trading place except Muskogee, so was larger than any other place. The ranchers shipped their cattle from there too.

From there we went to a farm on the Arkansas River about five miles north of Choska.

Choska

There were two stores, a grist mill, a blacksmith shop, and a Post Office at Choska.

King's Mill

This mill was about fourteen miles from Choska on Cane Creek. Mr. King owned and ran it.

Morton's Store or Old Hitchita

The first store was owned by ^{my}son-in-law, J. C. Morton, and was two miles east of the Hitchita Bus Stop where those four filling stations are on the highway. There was a blacksmith shop and Post Office. There always was a blacksmith for he was the most important in a farming country and the country around and close to Hitchita was and is a farming country.

When the railroad came through, the store was moved to the railroad. The Lackey Brothers, McIntosh, Mr.

Morton, and my husband had stores, making four stores in new or the present Hitchita. The two story white frame school house across the street was built then but I can't remember if the town or the Masonic lodge built it. I do know that the Masons held their meetings upstairs. The Methodist and Baptist churches held their meetings in the school part, downstairs.

Morton's or the first store was on the route from Checotah to Okmulgee. It had some of everything a person would need but still it wasn't a large store, that is in the line of food and cloth. Some of the Indians could talk and the others could make you understand what they needed. Indians, whites and negroes came to the store for they all had to have supplies.

How I Lost My Fear Of The Indians.

That was before the allotment but any Indian could fence and improve whatever land he wanted. Some had big ranches covered with cattle, others had their homes and some had places to rent. We rented Wodka Harjo's farm and paid him a third and fourth of the crops as rent. I don't know if we paid a Citizens Tax or not, but I don't think so, for I was part Indian, Creek.

- This farm was on the Arkansas River five miles north of Choska. I still worried about the Indians stealing my babies and whenever I saw an Indian coming, some of them had their babies tied on their backs, I'd call my children in the house and we would hide until they had passed. And the children were never allowed to go far from the house.

Fred Sever's niece was an Indian girl neighbor, and she could talk English well as she had a good education. She would come to see me and one day she asked me to let her take my little girl that looked so much like an Indian, (that was the one she liked best), to stay all day with her at her home. Well, I let her go and worried all day but she brought her back just when she had said she would. We got well acquainted and I told her how I feared the Indians would steal the children, and she explained and told me they were just like me and didn't want other people's children; they loved their own but had no desire to rear others. I found that to be the truth and instead of fearing them learned to like and respect them. Instead of hating Mr. Morton, they called him "That good white man" and seemed to love him.

High Spring

High Spring is right north of Hitchita. It was an old Indian Council years ago. There is an Old Indian woman named Kernel still living there but she wouldn't talk a word with you. She knows a lot if you could get an Indian to go to her. The hill was allotted to old man Kernel.

Broken Arrow Town

Broken Arrow Town is just across the river from our farm, or five miles north of Choska, on the Arkansas River.