

### **Notice of Copyright**

Published and unpublished materials may be protected by Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code). Any copies of published and unpublished materials provided by the Western History Collections are for research, scholarship, and study purposes only.

Use of certain published materials and manuscripts is restricted by law, by reason of their origin, or by donor agreement. For the protection of its holdings, the Western History Collections also reserves the right to restrict the use of unprocessed materials, or books and documents of exceptional value and fragility. Use of any material is subject to the approval of the Curator.

### **Citing Resources from the Western History Collections**

For citations in published or unpublished papers, this repository should be listed as the Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

An example of a proper citation:

Oklahoma Federation of Labor Collection, M452, Box 5, Folder 2. Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

BELL, L. M. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW

4375

41

## BIOGRAPHY FORM

42

## WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

## Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Ruth Lee GamblinThis report made on (date) June 10 1937

1. Name Mrs. L. L. Bell
2. Post Office Address Frederick, Oklahoma
3. Residence address (or location) North 13th St. Frederick
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 19 Year 1851
5. Place of birth Rust County, Texas

6. Name of Father Bob Wilson Place of birth Mississippi

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother Mary Wilson Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Other information about mother \_\_\_\_\_

Both parents lived to be 85 years of age.

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

I was born in Rust County, Texas, August 19, 1851, and came to Oklahoma in 1902. My parents died in Sunset, Texas.

My husband and three sons came to Oklahoma first in 1901. Mr. Bell drew a farm which is a mile and a half west of Davidson, Oklahoma. He built a tent first and he and the boys stayed until the next year when they came after me and my daughter.

We had several head of horses, cattle and pigs. We brought all stock, wagons, and household furniture on a train from Sunset, Texas, to Vernon, Texas; then we unloaded and packed the things in the two wagons and came across Red River to our farm. We were several days making the trip to Vernon and then it took us two days to unload and get all our things over to our home in Oklahoma. We had a big time; however, and as I had never been to Oklahoma I was very anxious to get across the river.

My husband and boys had been living in a tent so we stayed in the tent and covered wagon until we could build our house. It was my first time to live in a tent and I really didn't like it as it was real winter at that time and the wind was so strong at times it would blow

3

the tent down, but my husband and boys completed our house and half dugout in about a month. Our house had three rooms with board floors; however the boards were not fastened down. The dugout had a dirt floor but we covered it with straw.

We brought all our furniture and canned fruit with us. I thought I had enough canned fruit to last a year but it did not last long. Until a store was opened at Davidson, we had to go to Vernon after groceries. My husband went to Vernon after the lumber with which to build our house.

We had a big dug well, and the water was very good. Very few of our neighbors had wells so they would come to our house for water. All our neighbors just happened also to be from Texas. We visited them very often; in fact, we would all gather each week and have parties.

I will be 87 my next birthday and I have never seen an Indian.

My husband has been dead fifteen years and after his death I moved to Frederick; however, I still own the farm on which we settled.