

FREEMAN, MARY.

INTERVIEW

6490

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

FREEMAN, MARY

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Field Worker's name Jerome M. Emmons

This report made on (date) June 28, 1937

- 1. Name ~~Mrs. Mary Freeman~~
- 2. Post Office Address General Delivery, Schuler, Oklahoma
- 3. Residence address (or location) one-half mile west Schuler
High School
- 4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month June Day 11 Year 1878
- 5. Place of birth Ocmulgee, Indian Territory.

- 6. Name of Father John Freeman Place of birth near Muskogee
Other information about father _____
- 7. Name of Mother Lisa Herdridge Place of birth four miles west of Ocmulgee
Other information about mother Mother buried there.

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 _____

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Jerome M. Emmons,
Field Worker,
June 28, 1937.

An Interview with Mrs. Mary Freeman,
Schulter, Oklahoma.

Mrs. Freeman lives one half mile west of the
Schulter School, with her granddaughter.

I am three-quarter Creek, as my father was half white.
My town is Eufaula-Hitchita.

Schooling

I was sent to the Bacone Indian University soon after
my mother's death. I was nine years of age. My father
made arrangements for me to stay with Mr. Bacone, the
founder of the School.

I went to the Harrell Institute for two years. Lula
and Arie Foster and Cogie McIntosh attended the same time
that I did. Lula is now in California.

Steve Sanger was attending the Eufaula High School at
that same time.

The first school I attended was the one held in the
Ccuncil House. Mary Grayson, who was adopted by my great
sunt, Captain C. C. Belcher's wife, was my schoolmate.

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Farming

My father did quite a bit of farming and raised some cattle and sheep. We had some big greyhounds, which my father branded on the hip just as he did the cattle.

Horses

We had six race horses and about fifteen head of other saddle horses. Our pasture and barn was near where the depot in Okmulgee is now.

Game

My parents went on hunting trips in the fall. They would go alone or with a few families and stay sometimes a month at a time. The deer which was brought back was jerked, or dried in the sun. Ducks, quail, prairie chickens and rabbits were very numerous in those days and were killed by hunters in large enough numbers to provide meat for a long time.

Trading Posts

Okmulgee and Muskogee were the trading points when I was a girl, near our home.

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Early Okmulgee

Captain Severs and Jim Parkinson had the only stores. Captain C.C. Belcher was the postmaster.

Our town home was over the east side of the Okmulgee Creek, near where the Frisco tracks are now.

Medicine Men

Jenata Willie, Jenata Jacobs and Annie Lachlie were Indian doctors that I knew of.

Allotments

I never cared whether the land was held in common or not. I just got it for myself and children.

Liquor

People used to go to Webbers Falls to get liquor. My father used to bring it back from there at different times.

We were living near Hitchite. when my father asked if I would like to go with him to get a plow that he had loaned to a white neighbor. They were friendly people and as it was around noon, insisted that we stay for dinner.

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They had Choctaw beer and buttermilk and after sampling the beer, which was the first I had ever tasted, I decided that I liked the buttermilk better.

Marriage

I was married first in 1896. I have been married twice since. Of ^{my} four children, three died in infancy and the other is now dead, leaving an only granddaughter.

Church

When I was a youth, I attended the Baptist Church at Tuskegee. The minister was Jim Corbett, now dead.

Food

I used to prepare all the Indian dishes from corn. One day when I was making 'cold flour' for apuskey, Mr. Bradley, the Royalty Agent of the Indian Department, saw me and asked me to send him some when I was through. I haven't made any of these foods in recent years, however.

Other Indians

I remember some of the Sac-Fox coming here one time and my mother gave them some peaches. We were afraid of them. They still wore blankets.

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Transportation

A horse and buggy and saddle horses were what my family used for transportation, when I was young.

Eli Tosky, who lives north of the B & A mine here, still uses a horse and buggy.