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Old Greer County
Mangum
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Small-pox Epidemic

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

4403

Field Worker's name Eunice M. MayerThis report made on (date) June 11 19371. Name Mrs. A. R. Garrett2. Post Office Address Mangum, Oklahoma3. Residence address (or location) 403 North Carolina4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month October Day 3 Year 18725. Place of birth Jefferson City, Missouri6. Name of Father J. S. Hart Place of birth Missouri~~Other information about father~~7. Name of Mother Julia Foster Place of birth Mississippi

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 3.

An Interview with
Mrs. A. R. Garrett, Mangum, Okla.

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One of the events in Old Greer County which most impressed Mrs. A. R. Garrett, was that of the famous Kiowa uprising in 1891. Mrs. Garrett, who was living at Martha at the time, recalls that a white youth had killed an Indian in the Kiowa nation, and a raid on the Greer County settlement was reported.

At Mangum, the settlers banded together in a company of militia, and dared the Indians to do their worst; at Martha, the pioneers went to the church and prayed. The uprising, however, failed to develop.

After moving to Mangum Mrs. Garrett, Mrs. Roda Lewis, and Mrs. T. P. Clays operated a dress-making department in the old Johnson, Gilliland and Claunch merchandise store. This business was carried on three years.

~~Mrs. Garrett married the late A. R. Garrett, pioneer~~
barrister of western Oklahoma. Following her marriage, the family operated a farm east of Mangum townsite for nine years.

The family then moved to Mangum in 1912 where Judge Garrett was engaged in the practice of law. Judge Garrett emigrated to Greer County from Georgia in 1887. It was while engaged in teaching the first free public school that he began the study of law.

The dugout in which the school was established was located at what is now the northeast corner of the town

of Granite. About twenty-five pupils attended. The second school at the present site of Granite was located also near the northeast corner of the present town.

The building was made into a hospital during the smallpox epidemic of 1901. Forty-seven persons died of smallpox in the building during the epidemic. The building was burned.

Judge Garrett's death occurred in 1928. He was recognized as one of the outstanding pioneer barristers of the section. He was also a member of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

The housewife of the early day had no modern conveniences such as would lighten the burdens of her household duties. Plums, berries, and currants were gathered at the Wichita Mountains.

Mrs. Garrett recalls the average youth upon finishing school continued to work on his family's ranch or secured a little country school for himself.

Mrs. Garrett never attended any dances. She recalls spending her leisure hours riding horseback, picnicking, and attending prayer meeting. She was always interested in building up any community.