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GARRETT, MRS. MARY KATHERINE

INTERVIEW  
Form A-(S-149)

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

8004

Worker's name Ruby Wolfenbarger

Report made on (date) July 22 1937

Name Mary Katherine Garrett

Post Office Address Sentinel Oklahoma

Residence address (or location) Sentinel

DATE OF BIRTH: Month April Day 30 Year 1866

Place of birth Kansas

Name of Father George W. Sharpe Place of birth Canada

Other information about father Farmer

Name of Mother Lucindy Ivey Place of birth Kansas

Other information about mother

For complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Write on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached \_\_\_\_\_.

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Interview with Mrs. Mary Katherine Garrett  
Sentinel, Oklahoma

I am one-fourth Cherokee Indian, I was born in Kansas near Kansas City. My father, George Washington Sharppe, was French-Canadian. My mother was Lucindy Ivey.

I married Robert Lowe, who was one-half Creek Indian, in 1881. My husband was a graduate from the Ashbury Mission at Eufaula.

My mother's people would not take sides at first in the Civil War. They hid out in the brush near Arkansas City, Kansas, <sup>but</sup> they were soon captured and killed. My ~~uncle and aunt~~ and my mother were the only ones left. My uncle joined the Northern forces and hauled supplies to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

I moved to the Indian Territory in 1870, from Kansas. My uncle helped put the M. K. & T. Railroad through from Kansas City to McAlester.

We came through in a covered wagon. We were on the road all winter, camping on the way.

We located at McAlester. At first the men worked in the coal mines and they also cut wood and did most

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everything that they could to make a living. This country was just a vast wilderness at this time. There were lots of fish in the creeks and rivers and there was also plenty of wild game such as squirrels, wild turkeys, deer and rabbits.

In 1894, we moved to Okmulgee. This was a very small place, it did not have a railroad. My husband, children and myself were allotted one hundred and sixty acres of land each. We had a log house. We cut down trees and built it. We didn't have any floor in it or any windows and there was just one door. We didn't have any furniture to speak about. All Indians like a front porch and we didn't have any the first year but the next year we planted castor beans and sun-flowers and made a brush porch.

We got our supplies at Muskogee and Checotah. I had to go on horseback after these. I went to town about twice a year; if we ran out of anything, we just had to do without until time to go again.

We always raised a wonderful garden, there were lots of fruits and berries in the eastern part of the state. I had lots of chickens and I sold eggs for

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twenty five cents per dozen, sold corn for thirty-five cents per bushel. I bought calico for two cents a yard and we put ten yards in a dress. I bought unbleached muslin for three cents. I bought it by the bolt. We wore tight basque dresses, mother hubbards, skirts and waists.

For entertainment, we had picnics and camp meetings which would last for six weeks at a time. People came from all over the country. They brought plenty of fried chicken and cakes.

Magic Lantern shows came through about once a year. We had lots of fun at these they always had Punch and Judy.

We didn't have very good schools in the early times. I was reared among the Five Civilized Tribes. We were never allowed to associate with the uneducated class of Indians; these were bad to drink and to gamble.

Some of the Indians were mean, they knew that the white men were taking their land from them and this made them want revenge. My tribe of Indians were all very superstitious.

I helped organize the first Lodge at McAlester and

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Checotah. I had to ride in on a bale of cotton and we had to stay over night.

I sold my 160 acres of land at Okmulgee and moved near Sentinel and here I farmed for several years until my health gave away then I sold out and moved to Sentinel where I now reside.

Only one of my children, a daughter, still has her land; this is near Okmulgee.

My uncle, S. W. Fisher, was a Deputy United States Marshal at McAlester in the early day.