

LEGEND & STORY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

163

GINTER, SARAH.

INTERVIEW.

18411.

Field worker's name Nannie Lee Burns.

This report made on (date) March 25, 1938

1. This legend was secured from (name) Mrs. Sarah Ginter

Address 122 A-Sw. Miami, Oklahoma.

This person is (male or female) White, Negro, Indian,

If Indian, give tribe

2. Origin and history of legend or story From memory.

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 8

GINTER, SARAH.INTERVIEW.13411.

Nannie Lee Burns,
Investigator.
March 23, 1938.

Interview with Mrs. Sarah Ginter
Miami, Oklahoma.

My parents were Walter Fowler and Sarah Fowler nee Maidens; both were born in England and came, when young people, with their parents to this country. After my parents' marriage in Illinois most of the party returned to England but my parents, when I was two years old, came to what is now Henry County, Missouri, and settled eight miles southeast of Clinton. I was born November 19, 1858.

My father built his family a comfortable five-room frame house and while our schooling was limited in those days we received ordinary educations. Father continued to improve his farm and by the beginning of the Civil War we had as comfortable surroundings as the average family. Father was much older than my mother and did not want to take part in the war and to escape the bushwhackers he was compelled to stay away from home much of the time. Friends would tell him when the bushwhackers were coming and Father would leave and often be gone for many days.

GINTER, SARAH.

INTERVIEW.

13411.

- 2 -

During this time he hid in the neighborhood of Calhoun and Mother would carry him clean clothes and food at night. The bushwhackers took everything from us that they could and took all of our stock except a small pony that Mother concealed in the woods and which she used to carry food and clothing to my father. Oftentimes when the soldiers or the bushwhackers were passing they would stop and if there was a meal ready they would eat it or if not they would order my mother to prepare one for them. There was one difference, the soldiers would not loot the house though they would take a good horse if they found one and leave their tired and used horses in its place. The bushwhackers would not only ransack the house but they would torture the people and try to make them tell them what they wanted to know and if they saw fit they would take a man out and kill him, and were often abusive to the women folks.

Our nearest trading point was Clinton which then had only three small stores. After the War Clinton increased in size and when in drilling for water they got an artesian

GINTER, SARAH.

INTERVIEW.

18411.

- 3 -

well and later another as well as one sulphur well, a lake was built at the wells and this place became quite important.

People would come there and camp and drink the sulphur water, and these wells, being about two miles from the main part of town, a street car, drawn by horses, was used to take the people out to the lake. The greatest attraction on the lake were some large white swans and some pelicans and at one time there was a black bear there.

My girlhood was a pleasant one; we had a large orchard and many people came to our place for fruit and my girlfriends and myself spent many pleasant hours in the orchard. We had the usual parties and dances common to those times and it was at a dance at one of the neighbors that I first met my future husband.

My husband's father was a tanner and lived in Texas and in some trouble with a "pardner" he was shot in the arm, from which wound he afterwards died, so his son, afterward my husband, left there and began looking around and it was then that he came to our neighborhood. He was there but a short time when he decided that he would go to the Indian Country and try to get a start but before he left, I

GINTER, SARAH.

INTERVIEW.

13411.

- 4 -

promised to write to him. I had another sweetheart in Clinton but for the next six years Mr. Ginter continued to write to me and finally I agreed to marry him. He had some relatives living south of where Miami now is and so he went first to their house and here he hired out to Uncle Dick Williams who was the father of Charlie Williams. Uncle Dick had a great many cattle and farmed a great deal of land and besides would cut the wild grass and stack it to help winter his cattle, so John helped do all of these things; from spending the night on the prairie with the cattle to ploughing.

John came to my home for the marriage and we were married at my home and then we went to the Presbyterian Church that day. My folks were sorry to see me leave and, of course, were all crying and afraid for me to go to the Indian Country. We came on the train to Chetopa, Kansas, and here John's cousin Mr. Bunch met us in a farm wagon and it had been raining and so after swimming one creek we were forced to stop at a little log house, the home of an Indian and here we stayed my first night in this country.

GINTER, SARAH.

INTERVIEW.

13411.

- 5 -

We were to live in a small house belonging to Uncle Dick and we had very little to start with as my husband did not own even a horse, and the only live thing that we had was a fine sow that my father had given me, and from this we got our start of hogs. My husband had just received \$50.00 from the estate of his father and with this we purchased the few things that we had in the house. I had plenty of good clothes to last me for several years as we had no church or places to go and we did not have any set styles in those days. I had but few neighbors as my nearest neighbor was a half-a-mile away but I was busy in those days. I raised great flocks of chickens, geese and turkeys and sold them. We went once a month to Seneca, Missouri, to take our produce and to buy what we would need for the coming month. In pleasant weather we would put a cover over the wagon and take two days for the trip and camp at night at the big spring at Seneca and we enjoyed it as there was sure to be others campers there.

We were married fifty-six years ago and my son Robert was born fifty-three years ago. We continued to live here

GINTER, SARAH.

INTERVIEW.

13411.

- 6 -

until after Miami was laid out in 1891. My husband had farmed the last few years here for himself but as he did not like farming, when the lot sale was held in Miami in May, 1891, he purchased four lots just across the alley from those purchased by Mr. McWilliams. We sold our horses and all but one cow and our other stock and poultry, farming implements, etc., and this is the way we got the money to start here. We built a small house and my husband went into the livery-stable business but I have forgotten the name of his partner. Later he had a chance to purchase the little electric light plant which was housed in a stone building on the lot south of the house, that I now live in, so we sold our first lots and house for \$1,000.00 and he added more to the building and here we lived until we built our present home twenty years ago. We had been members of the Christian Church but when we came to Miami the Baptist was the only church here so we joined that one and remained with them until a Brother Williams, a Christian preacher, came here and held a meeting. This meeting was held in the little Methodist Church now the Park Hotel. Next we met for a

GINTER, SARAH.

INTERVIEW.

13411.

- 7 -

while in an upstairs room and finally built our first little church on east Central Avenue where the Coyne Lumber Yard now is. Selling this later we next built a frame structure where the present Christian Church now is. As the Town increased in size the demand for electricity increased and my husband had a chance to sell the plant and it was moved from our house to a location north of East Central near the present Frisco Railroad tracts. Then my husband opened a butcher shop in a small one-story frame building on Main street about where the Yeargain Barber shop now is. Near the top of the front of the building he had put as a sign of his business over his name a large pair of cow horns.

In those days there were many cowboys who would ride into town and they liked to display their good marksmanship and as they would ride out of town they would more often than not take a shot at these horns with a cowboy yell. My husband's first slaughter pen was on Tar Creek south and east, mostly east, of town but later he moved the slaughter pens a little north of the Ike Williams land. Ike was then a young man and was often in the shop and it was a constant

GINTER, SARAH.

INTERVIEW.

13411.

- 8 -

source of amusement to him to mystify the people when they came into the shop. A voice would come from one part of the room and when they would look to see who spoke, they would see no one but most likely the voice would seem to come from another part of the room but look whichever way they would they could not discover the speaker. Ike was a Ventriloquist.

Later we enlarged the stone home to a ten-room residence and lived here while our son and two daughters were growing up. Finally we sold it, after we built our present home, to our son-in-law but he wrecked the building and built the present residence there.

My husband continued in the butcher business and later when the mines were opened in this part of the county and his trade increased he moved to larger quarters across the street. Next he built the present two story brick building just north of the Glory-B Theater.

Our children all married and one today lives in California, one in Kansas City and the other in Tulsa but Mr. Ginter and I continued to live here and he continued in the butcher business until his death September 20, 1918.