

.INDEX CARDS:

Opening-Old Oklahoma
Guthrie
Edmond
Chisholm Trail
Living Conditions

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

Field Worker's name Mildred B. McFarland

This report made on (date) August 25, 1937

Name Mrs. Ada Baskins Jorgenson

Post Office Address Edmond, Oklahoma,

Residence address (or location) 525 North Boulevard

DATE OF BIRTH: Month January Day 17 Year 1867

Place of birth Oregon, Missouri

Name of Father W. M. Baskins Place of birth Mt. Gilahad, Ohio

Other information about father Born in 1834

Name of Mother Sarah Suttan Baskins Place of birth Orick, Missouri

Other information about mother Born in 1843

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 _____.

An Interview with Mrs. Ada Baskins Jorgenson, Edmond.

By - Mildred B. McFarland - Field Worker.

August 25, 1937.

I lived with my parents in Bluff City, Kansas. My father was a merchant there. He wanted to live on a farm for the benefit of my brothers. The grasshoppers had eaten up everything that year, so father decided to sell his store and try for land in the Opening of Oklahoma.

I was in Linden, Kansas, at that time, visiting my niece, Mable Pettyjohn, who later became Mrs. Zack Miller.

Father sent for me to come home to go with him. I was the only child in our family old enough to file a claim.

We went on the train to Guthrie, and from there to Edmond on the first train. We were met at Edmond by I. N. Donnell, an old friend of ours from Kansas, who had come ahead of us driving a team of mules. He drove us to the spot where we placed our flags. I placed mine nine miles northwest of Edmond, and Father's went a mile farther west.

That night we camped on David L. Payne's old camping ground. It was just one half mile from my place.

The old Chisholm Trail ran across Father's land. It still can be seen in places. A small creek called "Bloody

Run", also flows through it.

We put up a tent to live in until we could build some sort of a house.

Mr. Graves and Mr. Rash established a saw mill to prepare the native lumber. I built a small house twelve by fourteen, but the lumber cost me \$14.00. I donated one square acre on the corner of my place for a school house. It was the first schoolhouse built in that part of the country.

When consolidated schools were built I bought the old building and had it moved up to my yard. It is still standing and is used as a granary and barn now.

Most of my furniture was homemade from boxes and lumber left from building my house.

We drove a buckboard drawn by one horse. When we had a load we drove a yoke of oxen.

I was the only woman who filed a claim in this part of the country. Everyone was so kind to me.

Mr. Jorgenson had filed a claim joining that of my father. Mr. Jorgenson would bring his team and plow over

and help me plant my crops. He was born in Skeevie, Denmark. He had been living in Iowa previous to the opening of Oklahoma. He came here with a colony of people to make the Run. He had plenty of money to fix up his place. We had to live on our claims five years before we received a deed. During that time Mr. Jorgenson and I became engaged. One week after I received my deed we were married. I moved to his place and we farmed both places. I still own them.

After the school house was built on my place, I boarded the teachers and sewed for them. The money I received kept me in provisions.

Mr. Jorgenson had quite a few hogs and cattle. He kept adding to them and finally went into the livestock business on a large scale. We lived on the homestead for thirty-seven years. After his death I moved to Edmond.
