

GOZA, BELLE SHIVELY

INTERVIEW

#12369

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BIOGRAPHY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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Field Worker's name Roosevelt TerrisawThis report made on (date) Dec. 8 19371. Name Mrs. Belle Shively Goza2. Post Office Address Okmulgee, Oklahoma.3. Residence address (or location) 1304 North Collins4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month July Day 13 Year 18605. Place of birth Macoupin County, Illinois.6. Name of Father Tom Shively Place of birth KentuckyOther information about father wagon builder and farming implements maker.7. Name of Mother Martha Smith Shively Place of birth Virginia.Other information about mother House wife.

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 2.

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Roosevelt Derrisaw
Investigator
December 8, 1937

An Interview with
Mrs. Belle Shively Goza,
Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

Mrs. Belle Shively Goza was born in Macoupin County, Illinois, on July 13, 1860, and was reared in Kentucky. When she was nineteen years old her folks moved to Texas in a covered wagon. It took them six weeks to make the trip from Kentucky to Texas. As they traveled they had to camp out at times and sometimes they stopped for two or three days in some old abandoned shack. The men would walk along ahead of the wagon and hunt for game for their food on the next stop. In that way they had plenty to eat at all times.

The height of their wagon was two feet and a half above the ground. It was roughly built with a home-made cover, which was called drilling or sheeting. After moving to Texas they lived there five years. There Belle met and married W. G. Goza, a native of Tennessee. She and her husband moved to the Indian Territory. The first place they stopped was on a farm at Washita, belonging to Kate Finch, a Choctaw. Later they moved to the farm of Bob Murray,

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a white and Indian mixed Choctaw. They had to pay five dollars for one year to live in the Indian Territory. This payment was paid to the Indian government. Bob Murray was head sheriff at that time.

When they were traveling through Arkansas they came up to a creek called Gaines Creek; there they saw an Indian standing by two poles across the road. The Indian told them they must pay fifty cents to pass, so they paid their toll and passed and crossed the creek.

Mrs. Goza has been a widow since 1905.