

GRAYSON, ALICE MARSHALL. INTERVIEW 7887 ..

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

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GRAYSON, ALICE MARSHALL.

INTERVIEW.

7887.

Field Worker's name Grace Kelley.

This report made on (date) October 21, 1937. 1937

1. Name Alice Marshall Grayson.

2. Post Office Address Henryetta, Route 1.

3. Residence address (or location) Turkey Pen Hollow.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year 1879.

5. Place of birth One-half mile from Eufaula.

6. Name of Father Benjamin Marshall. Place of birth Indian Territory

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother Delphine Lucas. Place of birth Indian Territory

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 \_\_\_\_\_.

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Grace Kelley,  
Investigator,  
October 21, 1937.

An Interview With Alice Marshall Grayson,  
Route #1, Henmyetta, Oklahoma.

I was born about a half mile from Eufaula and am about half Creek and half Cherokee but was reared just as nearly like white people as possible. My mother taught us girls to do house work and to keep things clean as soon as <sup>we</sup> were big enough to do anything. We were not allowed to go to the Indian meetings nor to the white dances. There were two churches in Eufaula and we first went to one and then the other. After I was grown I was baptized into the Baptist Church.

There was a little day school in Eufaula when I first started to school. C. H. Tulley lived in Eufaula and was a teacher. Ellen Perryman, the wife of Joe Perryman, was another teacher there.

When I was about twelve years old they had a boarding school in Eufaula and we started to school there. George Stidham, an educated Creek who lived near town, was the Superintendent. Grandmother Adaline Lucas was the cook. There was a few white men who did the work around the

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place, and one white man hauled water for us as the school wasn't modern then. Most of the workers were Indians though. Ten girls were appointed to wash the dishes, make beds and do that kind of work. Then some were to take care of the little girls, wash their faces, give them baths, and keep clean clothes on them, just like big sisters or mothers. None of this work was hard for me to learn for Mother had already been teaching me.

As far back as I can remember there was one drug store in Eufaula owned by Mr. Fuller. The bank was run by C. C. Fuller. There was a two story frame hotel which was called the "Mary Harrod Hotel" and the "Indian Journal" printing office. Wash and Sam Grayson had a general merchandise store. Eufaula was an Indian town. The Katy Railroad ran through there and was built before the time I was born (1879).

Wash and Sam Grayson and Hugh Henry were partners in a ranch where Henryetta is now. That was why Hugh Henry was there and allotted it later. Wash Grayson's wife and my father were the children of twin sisters.

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Wash and Sam Grayson, Hugh Henry, George Stidham and men like them, used to come out here hunting. It was wild in here and they would come in home telling how much fun they had had. My father never went with them for he was blind from the time I was ten years old. The reason they called this Turkey Pen Hollow was that the turkeys came in here to roost by the hundreds.

Mr. Ewing, the school superintendent, allotted some ground out here and Joe's father leased it from him as he was a white man. I hadn't allotted at that time. And we moved out here thirty-eight years ago. I have stood at my window and watched the deer go down to the creek to drink. The squirrels were thick and the trees were close to the house and it was fun to watch them scampering around. There were wild chickens and wolves. The only house here when we moved here was an old deserted one west of here that I suppose had belonged to Indians.

The Indians of yesterday were better off than the most of them are now. There was plenty of game of all different kinds and about all they needed were a few clothes and clothes were cheaper than they are now.

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I got married when I was seventeen years old but my husband and I did not move to ourselves. I stayed at home and kept house for my mother until I was the mother of three children. I wouldn't have moved to myself then but Joe got work in Checotah and we had to move there. Even then I went home every so often and stayed for two months at a time. Not a year passed that I didn't go home in the spring to do Mother's house-cleaning.

On the Peter Ewing allotment three miles west of Eufaula there are a few graves including my father's. This is a very old cemetery; it is so old that persimmon trees twelve inches through are growing out of some of the graves. Al Ground lived there before allotment and as his wife was a Choctaw he had to go back to that country when she allotted. I don't know who owns it now but it is one mile northeast of the Wilson School.

The Moss Harjo Cemetery is over thirty-eight years old. It is a half mile southwest of the Wilson School. Some of the Radells were the last to be buried there.

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When we came here thirty-eight years ago there was no graveyard for white people, so when one of Joe's people died we took his body to the Coal Creek Graveyard just southeast of the Creek Mines at Henryetta. After allotment there were several white families through here. When Lee Pound's baby died my husband gave some ground on our daughter's (Vinnie Ree Grayson) allotment for a graveyard. It was for a community graveyard for both whites and Indians. A half mile south of the Wilson School and about a quarter south of the Salt Creek.

Joe Brooks Grayson and his father, T. H. Grayson, Joe Butler and H. C. Radell built a school, one room sixty by thirty feet, and paid for it. Then they hired Josephine Scott, an Indian, to teach it. I got her to board with us so my two children would have someone to walk to and from school with. There were not over twenty children of all ages, both Indian and white, attending.

Reverend R. M. Been lived and farmed a mile and a half east of the school. He went other places and held meetings so he started a church in the school before

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Statehood. He didn't preach for a salary nor for a collection but every once in a while we would give him a "pounding" and on his birthday we would give him a big dinner. We didn't have a janitor but we women would gather at the church in our bonnets and aprons and scrub the floors and clean the house and have a good time.

We didn't have a mail route at first but went to Okmulgee after the mail. When we needed provisions we went in the wagon but at other times on horseback.

Okmulgee was not much of a town then. Later, we would send one of the younger folk on horseback to Okmulgee for our mail.

Mother had a little brass lamp not over six inches in diameter with a tiny wick coming up through a sharp thing in the center. I was a large girl when we got a glass lamp at Eufaula.