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

Field Worker's name Grace Kelley

This report made on MAY 11, 1937

1. Name EFFIE MAY JUDY.

2. Post Office Address Henryetta, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address 215 South Sixth Street.

4. Date of birth 1908

5. Place of birth Bloomington, Ill.

6. Name of father Newton Westley Lillie Canada

other information about father _____

7. Name of mother Jusan A. Conant BORN in Maine

other information about mother. _____

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Grace Kelley, Field Worker.
Indian-Pioneer History 5-149
May 11, 1937.

Interview of Effie May Judy
Henryetta, Oklahoma.

My father came to Wellington, Kansas, from Bloomington, Illinois, in 1876, with his family. But he had been there a long time before by himself. He worked at the first flouring mill in Wellington for a long time and then took a claim thirteen miles southeast of Wellington in Kansas. He built a rock shanty on his claim. It wasn't large enough for us to live in, but he had to stay there a cert in amount of the year to hold it, so he would batch. There was no train from Wichita to Wellington-we came in a covered wagon.

My uncle was a carpenter so he built us a one room home on the claim with a dirt floor. ~~It was a very meager~~ home, not at all what we had been used to. We cooked, ate, and slept in the same room.

MOVED TO THE PAWNEE AGENCY

My brother, Gordon W. Lillie, was teaching at the Pawnee Agency and got the jobs of steward and stewardess for my father and mother at a hundred dollars each a month. They worked there for two years and saved their money to

build them a real home on their claim. They stayed on the claim about four years and returned to the same jobs at the Pawnee Agency School. After the opening they bought a home at Pawnee, which I now own.

Early School Life of the Lillie Children.

At first we went to school with the Indian children but later father hired a teacher just to teach us. Then I went to Wellington and worked for my room and board. The school was a public one and I didn't have to pay tuition. I finished the eighth, and was planning on going away to school when I met Mr. Judy and married. We moved to Illinois and I lived there until 1907, when Mr. Judy died, and I returned to Pawnee, Okla.

Church Meetings.

When we lived in Kansas the church meetings were held in the schools and we walked several miles to them. First one preacher and then another would come through, no certain denomination.

At Pawnee there was ^a mission, I believe owned by the Government. We called it the Baptist Mission but different denominations used it. It was a frame building.

PAWNEE AGENCY SCHOOL

The School buildings were all of rock. There were from a hundred to two hundred children enrolled. The children were from six years old until some were grown in size. They were detailed to do the work, and in that way they learned to work as well as to talk English and to get a book education. There was a seamstress whose duty was to over-see the girls in the sewing room. The matron and assistant matron taught them and looked after the dining room manners. There was a play room for the rainy days but on pretty days they played outside at recess. All of them slept in a big dormitory and they had to make their own beds in the morning when they got up. There was an Indian truant officer who went and got any child who ran away and brought it back.

BREAD DAYS.,

The boys were detailed to mix the bread which was made in big tubs. Sixty loaves were baked two or three times a week. Mother and father both oversaw the bread making. The girls put it in the pans. Father would build a fire in the great big rock ovens and when it was right he would rake the coals out and the rocks would be hot enough to bake the bread evenly. He knew just how much fire to use to bake it.

INDIAN PAYMENTS.

At that time, about 1880, there was a large Commissary for the Indians, where the rations were kept—coffee, beans, potatoes, and the like. There wasn't much cured meat. I think they bought cattle and butchered them and gave this meat to the Indians. They would come in every Saturday, in wagons or on horseback, and draw their rations. No money was given to them. The Government must have been afraid they would spend it all at once and be left without anything.

MAIL TRAIL OR ROUTE.

My uncle brought our groceries from Wellington in a wagon with a mule team. There was a trail from Arkansas City to Pawnee that the mail was brought over but I can't remember how it came. He would come over this trail when he brought the groceries.

RANCHER, GEORGE BERRY.

Mr. George Berry and several brothers were well-to-do ranchers there at Pawnee and I have seen him at the Agency several times. I don't know if the Government bought cattle from him or not but he could tell about the ranches. They are nice well-to-do people now living out from Pawnee, Okla.

MAJOR GORDON W. LILLIE (PAWNEE BILL)
Wild West Showman.

When Gordon was teaching at Pawnee he learned the Indian language. A man from Buffalo Bill Cody's show came to the Agency to get Indians to play in his show. Gordon went with

them as an interpreter. He was with that show a long time. He bought some cattle and kept them on Uncle's farm until he sold them and that gave him a financial start, so that he acquired his own show, which he took all over the United States, making a lot of money. Everyone seemed to want to see it. Mother and father went with him one summer as cashiers. He went to Europe with his show and it was a rainy year and he went broke but came back home and started over.

He is out from Pawnee now and could give you a much better write-up than I can, for he is older and knows more than I do.

BLEACHED BONES FROM INDIAN TERRITORY.

When we lived at Wellington father made his living at the rock quarry .

A sight that was always interesting to us was when the covered wagons would come back from the Indian Territory, loaded down with bleached and dried bones. Some people made a living by going down and hunting everywhere in the Territory for the bones of cattle to sell, I imagine for fertilizer. I have heard that there was an epidemic among the cattle from Texas and these bones must have been the ones that died from it.