

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

LOOP, GEORGE A. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW

9796

Field Worker's name Elizabeth L. Duncan,

This report made on (date) January 10, 1938

1. Name Mrs. George A. Loop,

2. Post Office Address Wakita, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

5. Place of birth _____

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

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 3.

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Elizabeth L. Duncan,
Journalist,
January 10, 1938.

Interview with Mrs. George A. Loop,
Wakita, Oklahoma.

My husband, George A. Loop, and sixteen other young men, all neighbors and friends of near Sterling, Rice County, Kansas, came down to Cameron, Kansas, across the state line from where Manchester is now, and camped there the week before the Opening. They endured a great deal of discomfort and some sickness, caused by the extreme heat and lack of water, during that trying time before the day of the Race, September 16, 1893, which was Saturday.

The signal was given at twelve o'clock noon and they were off like a bloodhound just released from his leash, wagons of all kinds, riders on horseback, the horses jumping the ravines and ditches, buggies hitting the shallow places, if possible, but many a wheel was broken by hitting the embankments, horses throwing some of their riders, each one trying to get ahead of the other.

At one o'clock my husband staked his claim without a contest, Sec. 34, Twp., 28, Range 8, ten and one-half

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miles southwest of Manchester; the other young men were also able to stake good claims. We were all so thankful to be able to get good claims and homes, also to have with us our good friends and neighbors and, of course, we met new friends and neighbors.

On Sunday, January 17, 1893, the men folks all started for Enid to file, but they were not able to file as soon as they reached there, for there were many ahead of them. They secured a number but then that would throw them way into October before filing so the captain of their group told them to go back to their homesteads and he would let them know when they were to file and my husband returned to the homestead and began to break sod to build a two-room sod house, also outbuildings such as a chicken house and shelter for the horses.

On Sunday, January 20, 1894, our three children and I came down from Hutchinson, Kansas, on the train to Cameron, Kansas, where we were met by my husband with a team and wagon and as we drove out to the claim the weather was wonderful, such nice, warm sunshine and

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very pleasant, but as far as you could see was nothing but plain old barren prairies with sod broken here and there and small sod or frame houses; it was very discouraging at first, but we soon adjusted ourselves to the pioneer life.

When we arrived at the claim I found my husband had built a nice two-room house, with a good cellar and a fine well of water; he had also built a good barn. About five o'clock that evening the weather changed and turned cold and the next day it was very cold, then on Tuesday we had a severe blizzard, the worst for several years, but soon it was quite nice again.

Sunday School was organized and we had Sunday School and Church services in a home; we all enjoyed it very much, and appreciated our neighbors.

The years that followed were very prosperous to the pioneers who came in here, the small towns have grown to large cities, smaller ones are on the progressive side, and the horses have been replaced with the tractors and automobiles.