

HOISINGTON, DORA DAILY

I T E R V I E W

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HOISINGTON, DORA DAILY. INTERVIEW.
BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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Field Worker's name Robert W. Small.

This report made on (date) July 19, 1937. 1937

1. Name Dora Daily Hoisington.

2. Post Office Address 300 South First Street.

3. Residence address (or location) Tonkawa, Oklahoma.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 17 Year 1864.

5. Place of birth Casey, Clark County, Illinois.

6. Name of Father William Daily Place of birth Ohio.

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Elizabeth Carpenter Daily Place of birth Illinois.

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 7.

Robert W. Small,
Interviewer.

July 19, 1937.

An Interview With Dora Daily Hoisington,
300 South First Street, Tonkawa, Okla.

Dora Daily was born at Casey, Clark County, Illinois, March 17, 1864; her father, William Daily, was born in Ohio, and her mother, Elizabeth Carpenter Daily was born in Illinois.

On February 24, 1882, Dora married William Henry Hoisington, in Leadville, Colorado, where they lived for one year, then they moved to Sumner County, Kansas; after living there three years they moved to Ford County, Kansas, and in July 1896, they came to Kay County, Oklahoma Territory, and traded their farm in Ford County, Kansas, for a quarter section of land eleven miles southwest of Tonkawa. Mr. Hoisington was in the "race" when this Cherokee Outlet was opened to settlement in September, 1893, and secured a claim for a friend of his, as Mr. Hoisington was not eligible to hold a claim himself.

The one hundred and sixty acres that Mr. and Mrs. Hoisington had traded for in this new country had no improvements upon it except a small "dugout" on the east side of the place and a well of water on the west side, and thirty acres

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of land which had been put in cultivation. Immediately after trading for this land they bought a four room house in Wellington, Kansas, and carefully tore it down, saving every board that came out of it and every nail; they hauled it a distance of sixty miles to their farm and rebuilt it, every piece of timber being fitted back in its former position in the building, except the lath which held the plaster, as they lost the plaster and were unable at that time to buy new plaster to finish it, but they did plaster it a year later.

They gave a workman a horse to help them tear down and rebuild this house.

They next built sheds for their stock, which sheds were built of poles for the sides with straw roofs. A chicken house with walls of sod and a straw roof was also built and a well was dug convenient to the house. They brought about ninety chickens; nine head of cattle; four horses, and four young hogs to butcher the following year. They had but \$35.00 in money to run them that year or until they could grow another crop, but Mrs. Hoisington being unusually strong, energetic and industrious, planned that by carefully

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using the milk from their cows to make butter she could produce a surplus each week above the family needs which, with a surplus of eggs from the chickens, would almost pay for the groceries that it would be necessary to buy. They took wheat to a mill at Oxford, Kansas, a distance of about sixty miles and had it made into flour for their bread. They usually took enough to run them for several months.

Some of the bachelor farmers in the neighborhood had raised a good crop of sweet potatoes, peanuts and pop corn and having much more than they could use, they supplied Mr. and Mrs. Hoisington with a liberal quantity, free of any charge.

In the spring of 1897, they planted corn and castor beans, most of which were on sod land, and this, in addition to their few acres of wheat all made a fair yield. Mrs. Hoisington worked in the field to help shock wheat during harvest time; she helped stack hay, gather corn, or did anything that was to be done. In addition to the work out of doors she cared for her children, did her housework, family washing, etc. She churned the milk from their cows

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in a stone churn with a wooden churndash, made most of the family's wearing apparel, bed sheets, pillow cases etc., and patched and mended all wearing apparel for the family. Her dresses were mostly of calico, for ordinary wear, ten yards of calico being required to make a dress in keeping with the style of those days, and the price paid for calico was from three and one-half cents to five cents per yard. Most all of the clothing and other necessities of life were cheaper during this period of the early days in this country. Mrs. Hoisington sold lots of young chickens that she raised for four and five cents per pound in the markets.

In the spring and early summer of 1894, Mrs. Hoisington had canned considerable quantities of vegetables and fruit which they brought to their new home in Oklahoma Territory following and they ate these canned goods the/winter, which reduced their living expenses considerably. She had also dried considerable fruit and green corn for winter use.

A sod school house was located one half mile from their home; this school house had a dirt floor and plain wooden benches without any backs were used for the students to sit on. Corn bobs were used chiefly for fuel to heat the school

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house; the salary paid the teacher was \$30.00 per month for a six months term.

Sunday School was also held in this school house. A church was later built by public donation. No regular pastor was secured for the church, but occasionally what they called a "drop-in" preacher would hold services.

There were not many social events in the country at that time; often, when a family was going to church or to some similar community affair the entire family would go in the farm wagon and if young ladies had escorts they would also ride in the wagon, the young couple sitting in chairs placed in the back part of the wagon. Sometimes "candy pullings" "pop corn" parties and such like gatherings were held at some farm home where the young people would congregate and have "the time of their lives".

There were no automobiles, no electric nor other kinds of refrigerators, no kind of power washing machines, no electric sweepers nor other kinds of electrical labor saving devices. The women used big iron kettles to boil the clothes in on wash days and used home made soap and a washboard to rub the dirt out of their clothing. They used metal and

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glass lamps that burned kerosene, to furnish light in their homes and in other places. Mrs. Hoisington had a neighbor whose house caught on fire on one occasion from a kerosene lamp that had no globe on it, and two little boys were fixing to retire at night; the house burned down and burned the two little boys to death; after their interment the neighborhood for miles around donated as liberally as they could to a fund to replace the building lost by fire. At this time the Hoisingtons had only five dollars, with no hopes of getting more money soon; they discussed the situation of their neighbors who had lost their home by fire and freely turned the \$5.00 over to the soliciting committee to help them rebuild their home, and immediately afterward Mr. Hoisington borrowed some money from his brother-in-law in Kansas. In the spring and summer following, Mrs. Hoisington worked out in harvest time, cooking for harvest hands to help make money to repay what they had borrowed.

The early settlers in this country were a very loyal and hospitable people. When sickness, accident or other adversity overtook any of them, the neighborhood rallied to

their support in every conceivable way. A man's word was accepted as his bond, as a rule.

The nearest railroad point to the Hoisington home was Ponca City, a distance of twenty-five miles. No bus lines or other mode of public conveyance was then to be had.

The family bathroom was a dark corner in the house where the old wash tub could be placed to serve as a bathtub.

The new country was improved as the years passed and today lovely homes adorn most of the sites where, in the long ago, a dugout or a little sod house, stood out on the barren prairies.

Mrs. Hoisington still has their old home place with its modern improvements, although she owns and occupies a splendidly furnished home at 300 South First Street, Tonkawa.