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

Field Worker's name Mildred B. McFarland

This report made on (date) May 18, 1937

1. Name Mrs. P. W. Lutman

2. Post Office Address Edmond, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 118 E. Main Street.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year 1875

5. Place of birth Bowling Green, Kentucky

6. Name of Father W. W. Sears Place of birth Kentucky

Other information about father Date of birth 1856

7. Name of Mother Mary Sears Place of birth Kentucky

Other information about mother Born 1858.

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 Four (4).

LUTMAN, P. W. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW

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Mildred B. McFarland,
Field Worker,
May 18, 1937.

Interview with Mrs. P. W. Lutman,
118 E. Main St., Edmond, Oklahoma.

My father, W. W. Sears, came to Oklahoma April 22, 1889. He made the Run and staked four lots on the town-site where the Federal Building of Oklahoma City now stands. His four lots were located at what is now Third and Robinson. He gave two of them to a cousin, Jim Dodd, of Carthage, Missouri, to try and induce him to come to the new country to settle. Father built a two-room house with a full basement on the two remaining lots. He then went back to Carthage, Missouri, our home then, after his family. My mother and her five daughters came back with him May 9, 1889.

I was just twelve years of age. I attended my first school in Oklahoma City in a tent, located at what is now known as Third and Broadway. A family by the name of "North" conducted the school.

A very good friend of my father was a man by the name of W. L. Couch. His son was Al Couch. Mr. Couch

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filed the claim where the old County court house of Oklahoma City now stands. He had some trouble with another man about the title to his claim and this man shot Mr. Couch.

The first church I ever attended in Oklahoma City was located on Second Street, between Robinson and Harvey.

The first fair held in Oklahoma City was to celebrate the Run. It was held on July 4, 1889, in the Maywood Addition. A grand stand was erected to accommodate fifteen thousand people. It was full of people and just as the horse races were about to begin, the stand collapsed, killing a number of people. I was on the very top row and was not hurt.

Father hauled lumber and helped to build all the new houses going up, but as he had always been a farmer, he was not satisfied. He had never used his homestead rights, so he sold our home and made the Run on the Cherokee Strip. We had lived in our former home six years. He made the Run on horseback. He filed his claim four miles west of what is now Billings. We all helped him to build our home. It was a four-room house with two rooms upstairs and two rooms down. We also built a barn large enough for four horses and two cows. As people told

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us there were quite a few cyclones, we decided to dig a cyclone cellar while we were digging our well. Our well was very deep and had a windlass. One day the wind began to blow and my sisters and I went out to the cyclone cellar. Before we could get down inside, our barn was blown to bits. As luck was with us that day, our horses and cows were not in it.

Most of the people in the "Strip" were very poor. They lived on kafir-corn meal and dandelion greens. They ate so many of the dandelions that they would break out in sores and a rash like chicken-pox. We were more fortunate, however, by having a little money, and we had taken enough flour and meat with us to last until our crops were ready. We traded at a place called "Highland Trading Post". I don't think it is in existence now. We also bought supplies at a general store in Enid, a small town then.

There were quite a few very rich Osage Indians living near us. They would not mix with the whites, however. One Indian man, whose name I do not remember, made a trip to Oklahoma City on horseback, to purchase a carriage for his

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family. To own a carriage denoted wealth. When he returned home he was driving his "carriage". They had sold him a big, black hearse. It was a funny sight to watch him driving his family around.

I taught my first school in Noble County near the town of Compton. It was a one-room sod house. It is torn down now. I taught there for two years. I then had a small school in Garfield County near Highland. It was a frame building. I do not know if it is still standing. There were quite a few deer on our place. We caught a fawn and raised it to be quite large. We were troubled a lot with coyotes getting our young calves and pigs. There were a lot of fish in Deep Fork River, close to us. In 1899 I moved to Edmond.

Editor's note: My father was born in Bowling Green, Kentucky in 1856. My mother was born in Kentucky in 1858.