

Form A-(3-149)

BIOGRAPHY FOR
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-History or History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Ida A. Merwin
This report made on (date) November 9, 1937

1. Name Lillian (Nosler) Kraemer
2. Post Office Address Perry, Oklahoma
3. Residence address (or location) 801 Delaware
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day - Year 1860
5. Place of birth Callaway County, Missouri

6. Name of Father Jacob Nosler Place of birth Virginia
Other information about father Pioneer of Missouri
7. Name of Mother Margaret Ann (Fry) Nosler Place of birth Virginia
Other information about mother Pioneer of Missouri

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 4.

KRAEMER, LILLIAN NOSLER,

INTERVIEW.

#9190

Ida A. Merwin
Investigator
November 9, 1937

Interview with Lillian Nosler Kraemer
801 Delaware, Perry, Oklahoma

PIONEER DAYS

I am the daughter of Jacob and Margaret Ann Nosler and was born in Callaway County, Missouri, in February, 1860.

About September 1, 1893 my husband started south to Oklahoma Territory in the hope of securing a location to make a home. He made the trip on the train and went to Oklahoma City to await the opening of the Cherokee Strip.

On September 16, 1893 he took a train going north from Oklahoma City and arrived at the townsite of Perry, in Noble County. He staked a lot but later found it was on the square reserved for public uses.

Later he bought some lots in northeast Perry and built a three room story and half house.

In December, 1893, I with four children came on the train from Sioux City, Iowa, to Perry, Oklahoma

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Territory where Mr. Kraemer had a home prepared for us.

Mr. Kraemer having been in the shoe business while we lived in Sioux City, Iowa, thought this would be a good business to start in the new town of Perry, so he opened a shoe shop on the north side of the square (this square is the block reserved for public use). This was under the name of A. Kraemer, Dealer and Manufacturer of Boots and Shoes. He gradually added to his stock and it soon became one of the leading stores, handling shoes and men's furnishings.

Mr. Kraemer passed away in 1932 and the store has continued under the management of his children, ~~and today is the only store in Perry handling shoes and men's furnishings exclusively.~~

About one year after the opening of the Cherokee Strip we bought the rights on eighty acres of land two miles east of Perry. We built a three room house but did not finish the inside until a year or two later, when we added one more room. We moved to this

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farm where we made our home for several years and during the time we were living there Mr. Kraemer cared for the shoe shop in town, going to and from town each day, riding a horse most of the time.

There had been a shallow well dug near a ravine a short distance from the spot where we built the house, and we used water from this until we could dig a well. The wood along the small ravines was our fuel for a while; later we used coal. Our first crops were kaffir corn and watermelons and the melons were immense.

The second year we had a barn about 16 x 16 which was filled with thrashed kaffir. Later wheat was our main crop. With the income from the shoe shop and what we raised we got along very well, much better than those who depended on the farm only.

We had a horse and buggy and attended church and Sunday school in Perry; the children also went to school in town, oftentimes walking the distance of two miles.

When the youngest child was old enough to go to school we moved to Perry and about one year later sold

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the farm and devoted our time to the shoe store. One time while living on the farm a severe storm arose in the night and moved our house from the foundation about twelve feet, just seemed to lift it and set it over; the porch was torn off and carried over the house and dropped in the yard. It was a queer feeling to feel the house lifted, and all the family in it; the children were asleep when the storm began. Several pieces of furniture were upset and turned over but very little damage was done to them. I don't think the damage would have amounted to more than \$2.00. The cupboard in which I kept the dishes turned over but only a few dishes were broken. We had a storm cave but this storm came up so quickly we did not have time to get to it. The next day several of the neighbors came and by night everything was back in place with very little expense and best of all no one hurt.

We did not handle stock, only what was needed for farm use.