

LAWHORN, MARTHA C.

INTERVIEW

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INDEX CARDS:

Cloud Chief  
Dugout

BIOGRAPHY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for OklahomaField Worker's name Ida B. LankfordThis report made on (date) July 12, 1937Name Martha C. LawhornPost Office Address Cordell, OklahomaResidence address (or location) 511 North College Street.DATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day 23 Year 1870Place of birth Melbourne, Izard County, Arkansas.Name of Father John Campbell Place of birth North CarolinaOther information about father Died 1878Name of Mother Isa Elkins Place of birth TennesseeOther information about mother Died in 1933.

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 2.

I was reared in Arkansas, married and moved to Texas, in 1892. Land was so high in Arkansas that we decided to move. April 1, 1903, we left Arnold, Texas, with two covered wagons, a horse and buggy, and came down in Lamar County and visited a brother for a few days. We crossed the river at Cavets Bluff on a boat. It could only carry a few of us at a time. While we were waiting, a dog came running up and had a fit. Some one hollered "mad dog" and one of the boys shot and killed it. We had several scares but nothing serious ever happened. We had lots of fun. We would camp a few days and fish. The children enjoyed the trip, but all were afraid of the first Indians we met. They wouldn't talk; just grunted. Of course we couldn't understand them.

We landed at Cloud Chief the first of June. The river was up and we couldn't get the wagons across, as part of the bridge had washed out. We got a farmer to take care of the teams and wagons and we went on to town and visited a nephew and family. There

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was no vacant land to homestead so we bought a man out. He had a dugout on the claim and a few acres of land broken, but no water; no fencing; not even a cow lot. We had an addition to the dugout made and lived in it until spring. Then we built a five room house and improved the place. We set out an orchard, and did lots of hard work, but we were happy. It was home! There were no church houses, but several school houses. People went to the school houses and had Sunday School and Church Services. Later on they built a church and bought land for a cemetery. Times have changed since we first came to Oklahoma.

The children of this generation will never realize the hardships and privations the old people went through in settling this country and making it what it is today. Instead of wagons, buggies and slow going horses, they have the automobile, airplane, the radio, modern houses, and everything to make them happy, and contented.