

LADY, J. M. (JUD)

INTERVIEW

13231

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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

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Holt, Charles H.-Investigator.
Indian Pioneer History-S-149.
March 11, 1938.

Interview with J. M. (Jud) Lady
Ralston, Oklahoma.

I was born in Nebraska in 1860, but my parents moved to Missouri when I was very small, then in 1890 our family moved to the Territory, settling near Pawhuska on land leased from Pete Bigheart.

The trip from Missouri was made with wagon and team and only household goods and a few weeks supply of provisions were brought. Enroute, Candy River had to be crossed, which was overflowing and caused us to have to camp for a week, waiting for the river to go down. At the end of a week's camping the river was still not safe to drive the loaded wagon across, so a cable was hitched to the wagon and an ox-team on the opposite side was hitched to the cable pulling them across the river safely.

The Bigheart place was a raw piece of land, with no buildings and a three years' lease on it was paid for by building a house, breaking the land, fencing, etc. A log house was built and a well was dug. At the same time land breaking was done, using two horses to a sod plow for the

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breaking, and by the end of the third year on the place, one hundred acres had been broken.

Corn was the principal crop, but some cane and kaffir corn was grown. There was plenty of range for stock and our family raised and accumulated a small herd of cattle, and at the same time raised a nice bunch of hogs. Most all of our food was raised.

The stock market was Elgin, Kansas. Cattle were very cheap and hogs brought about 3¹/₂¢ at the market. At the end of the third year on the Bigheart land it was given up, this being in 1893.

An older brother went just south of Arkansas City and made the run, staking a claim just south of Skedee. Our family then moved on this claim and began improving it. A dugout was the first job; we camped while the dugout was being constructed. A well was dug and twenty acres of the land were broke the first year. Corn and millet were planted on the twenty acres, which produced a good yield.

There was no school, but the second year a school house was built in the community.

After the first year on the claim I went to work for

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myself, working on ranches and for farmers, mostly in the
Osage country.

After working as a hired man for three or four years
I got married and began farming for myself in northwest
Osage County, where I have farmed in the same vicinity until
the present date.