

LABADIE, ALICE

INTERVIEW

7497

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

Field Worker's name Nannie Lee Burns

This report made on (date) September 14, 1937

1. Name Mrs. Alice Labadie

2. Post Office Address Miami, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 10 G Street, S.W.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

5. Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

6. Name of Father \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_.

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## THE INDIAN TERRITORY HOME

In the year 1875, Father moved his family onto a place south of Vinita which was owned by John Parks.

Here we had a comfortable four-room log house with plenty of out-buildings and I especially remember a well that was under a shed. Here my father farmed and raised cattle. We girls helped mother. She raised many chickens and turkeys and sold our butter at Vinita. Neighbors were far apart and we went horseback anywhere we went. There were no roads nor fences; the only fences were those around fields and truck patches. The grass was high and there was lots of wild game. Vinita was only a small place. We continued to trade mostly in Joplin, Missouri. We would make the trip in two days, staying overnight in Joplin.

After three years here, Father moved onto the place adjoining the Naylor Ranch near Bluemound west of Baxter Springs.

### My Husband and His People

My husband was William Labadie, the son of Peter and Amelia Labadie, Oneida Indians from New York, who had come west and had settled in Eastern Kansas among the Peorias. Peter Labadie came with the Peorias to the Indian Territory and was adopted by them. His brother Frank went to the Osage Nation and later was adopted into that tribe.

Peter had four children. My husband, William, the oldest, was born at Girard, Kansas, on December 26th, 1853, and received most of his education there.

Peter Labadie settled where North Miami now is and the spot where the old house stood can still be located by the tallest trees there. Charlie who lived at home some years had a dance hall there which is frequently referred to in early history. This was not, in reality a hall but a platform that adjoined the home where numerous dances were held.

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People used to come for many miles to attend these dances and the soldiers could be seen in their wagons drawn by big mules coming across the prairie from their headquarters south of Baxter to these dances. In those days there were no roads here except the Old Military Road which came from Baxter and crossed the Neosho River three miles east and south of Miami.

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We started in the direction that we wanted to go and went, as there was not a fence between where Miami now stands and Baxter Springs. When one trail got too muddy or rough we would go around and make another. The blue stem grass was as high as your head.

After the Frisco extended its lines south from Baxter through Quapaw to Miami, Peter Labadie was the post master at Quapaw and one day he stepped in front of the engine to cross the track to get the mail bag when he was killed by the train.

My husband when quite young went to Texas and worked for some years on the different ranches.

## MARRIAGE

In September of 1889 my parents were attending the Baxter Springs (Kansas) Reunion at the Old Baxter Spring. This was held each year and lasted a week. We were camped and the Labadies had their tent next to ours and here I met my husband. We were married at my father's home at Bluemound by a minister from Columbus, Kansas, November 23rd, 1890.

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My husband had a nice home ready, where C. C.

Kipps now lives, in what is now the extreme northeast part of Miami. This tract of ground was not a part of the original townsite.

At this time our nearest post office was four miles north in the Jim Palmer home across the road from the Peter Labadie home. Jintown was not the name of the post-office. I know it has been called Jintown and I know that there have been several articles written of late years in which the post office is called Jintown, but the name of the post office then and there was Miami.

From the fact that four of the men living near there were named Jim they nicknamed the place Jintown but that was not the official name.

The man whose name I do not remember who surveyed and platted Miami preparatory to the lot sale in May 1891, boarded at our home while he was working on this survey.

#### How Miami was Named.

This surveyor made the first map of Miami in our home and, sitting around the table with my husband and myself, the old street names were suggested and this surveyor placed them on his map. Among them were Vine, Pine, Walnut, Quincy and River streets. When it came to the name for the post office that was to be established, it was suggested that, as the post office was to be moved from the Jim Palmer home to the new town and its name there was Miami, it still be called Miami and so it was,

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and that is how the new town came to be named Miami.

The land belonged to the Ottawas and naturally you would not name a town for another tribe. Then too W. E. Lykins who went to Washington to secure the land for a town was a Peoria and you know he lived just across Tar Creek east of town and he would not have wanted the new town named Ottawa. The original town of Miami contained 580 acres.

#### EARLY DAYS IN MIAMI

Later that fall we moved to the hotel in Miami. It was a two story frame building on the east side of Main Street on the corner of Main and South First Street.

The first store was where the Miami Baptist Hospital stands now, two blocks west of there on B Street. It was just a small one room log building with a rough shed built to it; you had to jump over the counter to get behind it.



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Mr. George Bigham who came from Melrose, Kansas, and established this store in the summer of 1891, kept it there only until he could build a frame building on Main Street, just across the street south of the hotel and in the fall of 1891 he moved his store into the new building. John Cheyne was his clerk and assistant.

Afterwards, John Cheyne, when the Ottawa County National Bank was established, became interested there and there he remained till his death a few years ago.

Mr. Evans ran the hotel.

Mr. Nichols was the first post-master. The post office was about the middle of the block on the west side of the street from the hotel. Next to it was a drug store and on the corner south of the post office and across the street west of the hotel they started to build a two story brick building in the fall of 1891.

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The first story was built and the floor laid for the second floor when we decided to have a dance. The floor had no roof and it began raining that night and we had to transfer our dance to the hotel across the street where we danced in the lobby.

L. L. McManaman had a General store about the middle of the block south of the hotel. He, too, came to Miami in the fall of 1891. Lykins, the townsite man who looked after the sale of the city lots, had a little one room frame office about the middle of our block, north of the hotel. Dr. McWilliams

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had his office in his home, one block north and two blocks east of the hotel. Most of the first houses were built west of Main Street.

Before Miami was laid out and established, I have ridden all over the present townsite horseback when the grass was as high as my head.

The Charlie Williams family, who lived south of the Neosho, were our neighbors on the south and we

usually went horse back when we went visiting. We had no roads, but forded the river. I had a horse that would swim but when he struck the water he always went to the bottom and ducked me then he would swim. Many a time I have put my feet on the top of the dashboard when the water would run into the buggy bed.

Before there were any stores in Miami, we traded at Baxter Springs.

#### Mining Activities.

Peoria was an active mining field at this time and my husband got into the leasing business and rented the farm when we moved to Miami. After their failure there to beat the water, after the death of my husband's mother, we moved to his father's home at North Miami, until the year of 1897, when we moved back to Miami and even then we had a house shortage for three families of us lived in the six-room two story house at 28 C St. NW. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Porter,

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Mr. Brown and his sister and their boarder, Judge Fullerton, and my husband and I all lived in this house.

Mr. Labadie made two trips to Washington, D. C., one was for the Townsite Company.

#### LATER DAYS

Our two younger children were born and raised in Miami where we continued to live.

For a time after we returned to Miami, my husband had a drug store but he soon became interested in the lease business and he followed it here and at other places in this state till his death in Tulsa, December 5th, 1924. After the first years he was away from home a great deal but I have always made it (Miami) my home and since his death have made my home with my daughter here.