

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

Worker's name Amelia F. HarrisReport made on (date) September 15, 1937Name Mabel Thacker HobsonPost Office Address Oklahoma City, OklahomaResidence address (or location) 1124 N. McKinleyDATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day _____ Year 1890Place of birth OklahomaName of Father Robert E. Thacker Place of birth TexasOther information about father '89'erName of Mother Lydia E. McCartney Place of birth Texas

Other information about mother _____

For complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Use on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached _____.

HOBSON, MABEL THACKER (MRS.)

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My grandparents with their thirteen children drove through in a covered wagon from St. Augustine, Texas, to Thackerville. One of their boys was in very poor health. They had heard of some mineral springs with wonderful curative powers near Thackerville so with health uppermost in their minds they came to Indian Territory in 1876 and settled near these springs.

The little town of Thackerville derived its name from grandfather Thacker. They lived and reared their children here on a farm. There is an old cemetery here about eighty years old. Half of the tomb stones there bear the names of some member of the Thacker family, as the thirteen children married, lived, and died in that vicinity.

My father, Robert E. Thacker, studied and graduated in medicine at Louisville, Kentucky. He returned to Thackerville and hung up his shingle.

In 1890, he married Lydia E. McCartney. They lived here eight years. Two children, myself and one sister, were born to this union.

In 1898, mother died. My father wanted to leave immediately. We two girls went to live with our grandfather and grandmother Thacker and father formed a partnership with

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Dr. Dunn at Purcell.

The next year my grandparents bought out a claim of 160 acres at Harrah, and built a two-room frame house, with a small log barn. They still had three girls at home and we two made five.

We all assisted in cultivating and gathering all of the crops raised on the farm.

We walked two miles to the Home Valley School which was held in a large one-room frame building. We had long bench seats, a big wood heater. We used the slates and slate pencils. W. L. (Bill) Alexander was our first teacher. He taught three terms there, and my aunt, Anna McCartney, taught two terms. We had summer school so all of the country children could help in the fields.

My aunt, Anna McCartney, is still teaching school in Capitol Hill, in the Lee school building. She has taught there for seventeen years.

We looked forward to the closing exercises of our school at Home Valley, as it was a regular picnic. Grandma would start preparing about three days ahead, cooking cakes, pies, baking light bread and a ham and fried chicken.

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We always had plenty of vegetables. She would put all this food in a big tub. Grandfather hitched up the wagon, our only way of transportation, put a lot of hay in the bottom and spread a big comfort over this for us children to sit on. They sat on the spring seat in the front. The exercises were held out of doors, starting immediately after our picnic dinner. Then we had a big supper and more exercises, winding them up about ten o'clock at night. Everybody was tired and happy.

Mr. Alexander, our teacher, and his wife, didn't have any children, but they usually had a bunch around them. They invited Sister and me, Bertha Plymet and her little sister. They came for us in their spring hack. When we got to the Alexander home it was dark, and Mrs. Alexander opened the door and looking into the dark house said, "Oooh there might be a booger in there." Then she noticed that we were afraid and she said, "No, children there are no boogers, nothing to hurt us." She lighted the lamp and we went in. Then Bertha Plymet said, "Oh" yes, Mrs. Alexander, there are boogers too, for I got some in my hair once."

We stayed about two days, then the Plymet children's

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mother came for them about dark, driving a single horse and buggy. She spent the night and started early the next morning for their home. They had to cross the North Canadian near where the present Harrah bridge is today. The river was up and the swift waters over-turned the buggy, and waded the mother and two little girls.

The Canadian is a very treacherous river. I never cross it at Harrah but what I think of that mother and two little girls.

In the meantime, Father and Dr. Dunn, practiced medicine in Purcell. Dr. Dunn died in 1903 and Father moved into Lexington, just across the river from Purcell. He was married the second time in 1904 to Belladora Williams. He then sent for sister and me to come and live with them.

We both graduated from Lexington high school. We then went to Epworth University at Oklahoma City. My sister specialized in Elocution as it was called then and became assistant teacher in that department at Epworth. I specialized in English, finished at Epworth and taught school in Lexington for two years.

I next taught English two years in Watonga, then

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came back and taught it in the high school at Norman for two years.

In 1916 I married Calvin J. Hobson. He was manager of the National Refining Company at Drumright, Oklahoma. We lived there for three years and then moved to Oklahoma City.

He then engaged in the oil business for himself and remained active until his death in 1936.