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Op-ning-Kiowa-Comanche
Anadarko
Rag Town
First Church

Lillian Cassaway,

Field Worker.

BIOGRAPHY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Lillian M. CassawayThis report made on (date) June 12, 19371. Name Mrs. M. Leonard2. Post Office Address Anadarko, Oklahoma,3. Residence address (or location) 603 East Broadway.4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 16 Year 1875.5. Place of birth Montgomery, Alabama.6. Name of Father B. A. Rea. Place of birth Alabama.

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Ingram 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 _____.

Early Church History
of
Methodist Episcopal Church

An Interview With Mrs. Morris Leonard
Lillian M. Gassaway,
Field Worker.

Lillian Gassaway,
Field Worker.

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An Interview With
Mrs. Morris Leonard by
Lillian Gassaway,
Field Worker.

Mrs. Leonard has been here ever since the opening of the country. There was no Methodist Episcopal Church here before that time.

FATHER: B. A. McRea. Born, Alabama.

MOTHER: Ingram McRea. Born, Alabama.

August 3, 1901, a dray from El Reno, O. T., unloaded in Anadarko "Rag Town", a tent tabernacle. This tent tabernacle was in charge of Rev. Keller of Guthrie O. T., who was assisted by Rev. H. L. Murry of Irwin, Illinois, two tent men and many citizens of "Rag Town" in raising the tent, which was finished by midnight. This, the First Methodist/^{Episcopal} Church, with lumber for seats, two goods boxes for a pulpit and gasoline torches for lights, was ready for church services. On August 4th a song service and an announcement on the public streets of "Rag Town" brought people together; and a Sunday School was organized temporarily, with D. W. Keller, Superintendent; W. J. Davis, Secretary; and Mr. J. B. Case, Isaac Adamson, Mattie Middup and Mrs. Southwick, teachers. After Sunday School Rev. Kelly preached, and immediately following a class meeting was organized. A union meeting was held that night and an address was delivered by Rev. Murry. On Monday night, August 4, a mass temperance meeting was

called and an Anti-Saloon League was organized, and the following offers were elected: Rev. Butterfield, Methodist Episcopal Church South, President; Rev. C. E. Dunn, Congregational Church, Secretary; and Mrs. J. J. Methvin (Institute), Treasurer. On the second Sunday, August 11, the Methodist bugle was sounded for an enrollment preparatory to perfecting an organization and the apostolic number twelve composed of two women and ten men. Mattie Middup, Jennie Reid, W. H. Cole, Clyde King, J. C. Bell, I. N. Bradfield, G. W. Lamberson, W. T. Staples, Robert Weir, W. R. Dutton, H. J. Cowgill, and George Hiller, were the first to assume the responsibility of building their church in Anadarko.

During the government sale of lots J. W. Davis and I. N. Bradfield bought lots eight and nine in block sixty-one for \$260.00, but they were later sold and four lots at the corner of Sixth and South Boundary were bought for \$500.00 where was built a \$2500.00 frame church structure, which was occupied and used until August, 1917.

Again on August 18, 1901, a call was made for other charter members and twenty-one more united with the twelve of August 11th. Of the twenty-one new members eleven were women and ten men. On August 28, the

pastor called a meeting and five trustees were elected. W. R. Dutton, President; J. C. Bell, Secretary; W. H. Cole, Treasurer; W. E. Smith and I. N. Bradfield, to whom were soon added E. D. Williams and Dr. E. B. Mitchell, making the deaconiac number, seven for serving the church. The Sunday School organized in "Rag Town" outlived the canvas dwelling with George Smith, Superintendent; Miss Mary Pallady, Secretary, Miss Jennie Reid, Treasurer, C. H. Musett, Librarian, with the same teachers here named. At the first hour of Sunday School in "Rag Town" thirty-five were present. On August 17, the church board met with Rev. John F. Palmer in official session and selected Plan No. 243 of 1901 catalogue of their church Extension society, and the board of trustees was made a building committee and a frame church was built. Subscriptions to the church building fund came from many sources. The first service in the new frame church was held November 17, this being the first quarterly conference and sacramental service of the church with Rev. Palmer presiding.