

LEAVITT, ANNA

INTERVIEW

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BIOGRAPHY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Plant-History-Collect-for-Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Amelia F. Harris

This report made on (date) 6-25 -37

1. Name Mrs. Anna Leavitt

2. Post Office Address Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 324-W-Park

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 21 Year 1848

5. Place of birth Illinois

6. Name of Father Will R. Tripure Place of birth Maine

Other information about father Doctor in Confederate Army

7. Name of Mother Lydia Grant Tripure Place of birth Maine

Other information about mother Second cousin of U. S. Grant

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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Amelia F. Harris
Field Worker
June 25, 1937

Interview with Mrs. Anna Leavitt
324 W. Park, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

At my father's request I studied medicine for two years.

One day I told pa I didn't want to become a doctor, I would rather be a graduate nurse. He agreed to this and in due time I finished my course in nursing.

I married Captain J. H. Leavitt and moved to Indiana and practised my profession.

My sister, Jennie, married Doctor J. Halstead and they moved to Oklahoma Territory.

My father died and ma came to the Territory to live with my sister. In the meantime Captain Leavitt died. Ma grew very feeble and she wanted me to move to Oklahoma Territory to be near her and nurse her back to health, which I did. I came to Oklahoma Territory April 10, 1892, forty-five years ago. I worked in the hospital on Main Street and Western for several years, then I only took cases out in town.

I have been very active in a philanthropic way. I was president of the Women's Relief Corps, with offices on the South Corner of Main Street and Broadway, and in that capacity did a great deal of charity work. We, the officers, would make donations from our funds, then all the members would go in a body and give pound parties in the homes of the destitute. Doctor Harper and wife and myself organized the Y.W.C.A.

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in Oklahoma City. We are Charter members. I am a life member of the Harmony Chapter of the Eastern Star, the Rebeccas and the Shamrock Club. My membership is forty years in these organizations and they seemed to always call on me first when the poor were sick or needed clothes. I remember one family in particular (will not give the name). They were so poor - nothing in the house, nothing to eat and clothing in rags. Mrs. Petty sent some bedding and a good used rug, the Relief Corps ladies bought material, we scattered out in groups of four or five over the neighborhood to cut and sew the goods into clothing for this family so they could go to school, church and Sunday School.

I worked in the Sunbeam home as assistant for two years. While I was President of the Shamrock Club we adopted an old couple too feeble to help themselves. The Elks Club assisted us and we fitted this old couple out to where they would be comfortable and some of us members visited them daily.

During my first years in Oklahoma City I lived in a seven-room house between Robinson and Harvey. I bought this property and ran a private boarding house but as the work was too much for me I sold the property and bought at 324 West Park.

I went to Elkins and registered for a homestead, but was not lucky.

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I have watched with pride the progress of Oklahoma City, especially when they started remodeling the Post Office and Federal Building. On my way to and from town I would stop and watch them work and I would reminisce of the years when I lived there. I once owned a portion of the ground they were working on. I was eighty-two years old when they started remodeling these buildings. I am now eighty-nine and am still interested in the wonderful progress of the City. I am too feeble to walk more than a block now.