



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

#8672

LEVY, CHRISTINE CAIN. INTERVIEW.

Field Worker's name Ida A. Merwin

This report made on (date) September 27, 1937

1. Name Christine Cain Levy.

2. Post Office Address Perry, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 6th & Grove Streets.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month October Day 9 Year 1870

5. Place of birth Near Barboursville, Kentucky.

6. Name of Father Peter Cain Place of birth Kentucky.

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

7. Name of Mother Mary Dorton Cain. Place of birth Kentucky.

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 \_\_\_\_\_.

An Interview with Christine Cain Levy - Perry, Oklahoma.  
By - Ida A. Merwin, Interviewer.  
September 27, 1937.

I am the daughter of Peter and Mary (Dorton) Cain and I was born near Barboursville, Kentucky, October 9, 1870.

In 1890 I came from Kansas to Oklahoma City to visit a cousin who was living there and I secured work, doing housework and remained there for two years. When I returned to Wichita, Kansas, I went to work there dressmaking.

In the Fall of 1893 I wanted to enter the race in the Cherokee Strip, so I returned to Oklahoma City, and a son of my cousin and I made preparations to enter the race.

On the 16th day of September, 1893, we started from a point near Orlando.

We were on the front line when the signal was given. I was on horseback and did not have a saddle, but had a strap around the horse that I could hold to and as the signal was given, the boy struck my horse and he gave a leap that almost threw me off.

The race was very difficult as there were so many people going in all directions; we went through brush and over

creeks and ravines which seemed almost impossible to cross, but our horses took us through without difficulty, but my clothes were almost torn off of me.

We staked land in the northwest part of Noble County.

When I came to the filing office at Perry I found my sister, Charity Cain, had come in on a train and had secured a lot in the townsite of Perry over which four contests had arisen, and realizing that these would be hard to settle, I gave up my rights to the land I had staked and remained at Perry to help her.

After a few months I returned to Wichita and went to work to earn money to use in clearing the contests on my sister's land and to care for my parents until they could get a home built.

My parents and another younger sister came to Perry as soon as they could after the opening and Father built a frame house on this lot; this was a two story building. This house was built for a rooming house, and is located on the corner of Grove and 6th Streets.

There was not much need of rooms in the early days at Perry as it was a tent town, every one having his or her own tent.

My parents came on the train and only brought bedding and clothing with them. We bought furniture in Perry after the house was built.

There was a well on this lot that had been dug previous to the opening, so Father secured rocks and walled it up and this well supplied us with water for several years.

Our fuel was wood that Father worked for in the country.

While working in Wichita I earned enough money to buy a cow, which proved a great help to my parents. In the early part of 1894 I returned to Perry and secured work in a bakery at \$2.00 per week.

Father worked in the country and took molasses for his pay.

With the money I earned at the bakery I bought bread and coffee and these things with molasses and milk were what we lived on for a long while. We did not have the money to buy the food which we really needed.

In the Spring of 1894 I opened a restaurant on the east side of the square - about the same place where the Palace Cafe is today. I rented the building and fixtures for \$10.00 per month and after a few months I was married and my husband

and I opened a restaurant on the north side of the square about where the Elite Cafe is now.

My parents are dead and buried in the Grace Hill Cemetery at Perry. After their death my sister and I who were both widows, and our brother, E. V. Cain, moved into the old homestead where we still reside and where we rent rooms to help with our living and general expenses.