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FIELD WORKER GOLDIE TURNER
Indian-Pioneer History S-149
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INTERVIEW WITH ANNA B. LITTLE

Mrs. Little was born at Ripley, Ill., in 1849.

She came to Oklahoma in 1891.

We first came to Clayton, Oklahoma, a little town about twelve miles south of Stillwater, in 1891. We came to make the run into the Cherokee Strip, but Mr. Little's brother who had made the run and settled at Clayton, wrote us too soon. He came to Clayton which then was a lively little pioneer town and bought twenty lots. During the two years there waiting for the Strip to open, we lived up what little cash we had and when the Strip did open we, like every one else had little money.

Mr. Little made the run from the Creek Nation, about four miles south of our homestead. He didn't want to go far and since he liked the land he soon stopped. Our homestead is just three miles straight east of Hallet, although there was no town there then.

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Mr. Little chopped trees and built a one room log house with a clapboard roof, and door. There was one hole for a window which we covered with a cloth during a storm. He did not then put in any chinking between the logs. Mr. Little came back to Clayton for the family in November and we arrived at our log cabin on Thanksgiving day, 1893. That night we spread our bed on the floor, covering the one big big bed with a big rag carpet, and the next morning it was covered with snow.

We had traded our twenty lots in Clayton to a groceryman for groceries so had to make the two day trip there when we needed groceries. We had a nephew living about half way to Clayton so we could stay all night there.

The trail led through what is now the town of Jennings and at that time there was one tent there. The town was unthought of then. Jennings was not established until the M.K.&T. railroad was built through about 1906.

There were plenty of deer and prairie chickens all over the country, so we always had plenty of meat.

Our one room log cabin was too small for our large family but the next winter after the opening one of our

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neighbors borrowed our wagon to haul lumber from a sawmill/^{which} gave away all the outside slabs that had the bark on to ^{who} any one would haul them away from the mill. Our neighbor hauled several loads for himself and when he brought our wagon home it was loaded with slabs. By setting these up end-ways we were able to build another room to our cabin. We used them to roof it, too. We were surely proud of our extra room even though we had dirt floors. The next year the same neighbor, by borrowing our wagon again, brought us enough clapboards to make a ceiling in the large part of the cabin to make an attic room ~~where the children slept.~~

One evening, looking to the west, I saw a big crowd of people, men, women and children coming toward our place, they were walking and I knew they were Indians ~~although they were as yet quite a distance away. I had never seen an Indian before but I was afraid of them and was sure they were coming to kill us. We watched them but when they reached the west corner of our place about~~

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a quarter of a mile away they turned south and followed a trail going that way. They were soon out of sight but we spent an uneasy night expecting to hear a war whoop any minute. The next day we heard they had camped about a mile south of us and that they were a band of Osages on their way to visit the Creek Indians.

We all had a hard time but we had plenty to eat.

There was only one family that I think really suffered. It consisted of an old Civil War veteran and his wife. When this old fellow first went to file on his claim, while he was waiting his turn to file at Perry, his pockets were picked before he had a chance to file and he ~~had to return home and wait until he got his next pension~~ payment three months later. That time his wife went with him and hid the money in the large pompadour roll of her hair. After filing they came back to their claim and lived ~~on milk for sometime. The man would go out and chop wood~~ all day, taking a quart of milk with him for his dinner.

After the first year everyone got along better, as good crops were raised. The first year we raised only cantaloupes and watermelons but the next year we raised corn, wheat and sorghum cane.

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Hallett and Jennings were both established by the railroads about 1905 or 1906, but they never grew very fast.

It was but a few years later that the oil companies began sending in representatives to lease the land for oil. They located a well on our farm and soon struck oil. Several rows of oil field houses and two or three stores were built and since there were so many dogs there, the little place was called Dog Center. It grew to be quite a little town. A gas plant was built as well as a school and filling station. This little oil field town lasted about ten years, then the wells and plant were abandoned. Today there is a store and filling station called Dog Center, but nothing else.