

TODD, JARRETT (MRS.)

INTERVIEW

8098

261

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

Field Worker's name Junice M. Meyer

This report made on (date) July 22, 1937

1. Name Mrs. Jarrett Todd,

2. Post Office Address Mangum, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 31 Year 1869

5. Place of birth California.

6. Name of Father H. D. Farlane Place of birth Tennessee

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

7. Name of Mother Martha Terril Place of birth Tennessee

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 \_\_\_\_\_

TODD, MRS. JARRETT

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Eunice M. Mayer,  
Interviewer,  
July 22, 1937.

an Interview with Mrs. Jarrett Todd,  
Mangum, Oklahoma.

Mrs. Jarrett Todd, of Mangum, believes she will never forget her first trip from Jubbart City, Texas, to Greer County, in 1888. As a girl of 18, she made the trip with her parents in the dead of winter.

Three covered wagons, which brought the family and their possessions to this section, mired repeatedly in the mud of the open range. Rain descended in torrents on the immigrants, and they begin to wish they had never left their old home.

However, after the clouds cleared away they saw a prairie of beautiful wild flowers and after a breakfast of buttered toast and ham which they had brought with them, they begin to take an interest in the country.

The wagon caravan brought her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. McFarlane, and her married brother, Warren, as well as a younger brother, Will. The immigrants staked a claim near Duke and remained in the section a year.

"We could only stake a claim then since the land office did not open for filing until 1897", Mrs. Todd explained.

TODD, MRS. JARRETT.

INTERVIEW.

8098

-2-

Her father then moved to Mangum to run a grocery in partnership with his son, Warren. This grocery was located in the Crouch Building on the present site of the Mangum Daily Star. He remained in business four years, then returned to Duke.

She was married to Judge Jarrett Todd, veteran attorney and jurist of this section since 1888. Mrs. Todd has been a continuous resident of Greer County with the exception of six years spent in Oklahoma City, where her husband was assistant commissioner of charities and corrections in the office of W. D. Matthews.

Friends of Judge Todd urged him to return to Mangum to make the race for county judge. He did so and was elected to the office which he held intermittently for twenty-four years. In addition to serving as an early county attorney, Judge Todd was an early ex-officio school superintendent here.

When Mrs. Todd first came to Mangum, there were only four young women living in the community. They were Coanthe Pierson, Little Dial, Ella Fletcher and Lucy Sweet.

For recreation, young people went to the big roundups, rode horseback and danced.

TODD, MRS. JARRETT

INTERVIEW

8098

-3-

Music was supplied by a two-piece orchestra consisting of a fiddler and banjo picker. The father of Lige Reeves of Mangum was a popular fiddler for these events.

The first school here was a one room box house, which was remodeled four times. Professor Calhoun was an early principal, and A. B. Garrett and Horace Simpson taught in the building.

Hard times struck in the county in 1890, and many discouraged settlers left, returning to Southern Texas. Crop failures were common for two years during the period.

Business firms in early Mangum included Clampitt's grocery, the Ferguson, Hannah Drug Store, and the Crouch and Pierson Hotels, a livery stable and saloon completed the business section.

Most of the settlers lived in dugouts and when a resident decided to paint his house, the news spread throughout the community.

Opening of the land office in 1897 boomed the town, and fences began to make their appearance. Good seasons prepared the way for good crops, and settlers who had left wished they had remained.