

TUDOR, EMMA SUSAN

INTERVIEW

#8555

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

TUDOR, EMMA SUSAN

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Field Worker's name Mildred B. McFarland,

This report made on (date) September 13, 1937

1. Name Emma Susan Tudor

2. Post Office Address Edmond, Okla.

3. Residence address (or location) 326 E. Lyree St.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month July Day 31 Year 1858

5. Place of birth Boon's Mill, Virginia

6. Name of Father Pleasant J. Wade Place of birth Bedford County Missouri

Other information about father Born March 25, 1825.

7. Name of Mother Eliza Wade Place of birth Bedford County Missouri

Other information about mother Born November 20, 1826.

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 6.

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Mildred B. McFarland,
Interviewer,
September 13, 1937.

An Interview with Mrs. Emma Susan
326 E. Ayres St., Edmond, Okla.

Our home was in Milford, Missouri, at the time of
the opening of Oklahoma, in 1889.

We had some friends in Oswego, Kansas, who wanted my
husband to make the run with them, so he journeyed there
on horseback to go with them. He left me and our two
children at home to look after the place, as we already
had our crops in.

Mr. Tudor filed a claim eight miles east and one mile
north of Edmond. He came in from the east. He plowed two
or three furrows around the place and laid the foundation
for the house.

In October he came back to Missouri to harvest the
crop.

After the crop was gathered in we prepared for our
long journey to our new home. We made the trip in a
covered wagon, joining with a family named Keasling. We had
a large herd of cattle, but left them with a family by the
name of Fulton in Oswego, until he could come back after them.

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When we arrived at our claim we had no house or tent, so we took the wagon bed off the base and slept in that. We had brought a rocking chair and cook stove along with us and set up housekeeping out of doors. I brought a few hens and two pigs with me in the wagon.

We immediately cut some trees and built a small shanty until we could afford to have lumber sawed at the mill.

We had a very hard time at first. We were out of money and supplies.

We left our cattle in Osage until the following June, when Mr. Tudor went after them.

My sister had sent us \$30.00 to see us through the winter and there was enough left to fence part of our land and build a corral for our cattle. It took from June until November to complete the fence. Mr. Tudor and I split logs and made fence posts. Every day until the fence was finished, I took my two children, four and two years of age, with me to herd cattle. It kept us on the prairie all day.

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There were several milk cows in the herd, and the butter I made and the few eggs I got from the hens, kept us in meal, flour, coffee, salt and sugar. We raised quite a few hogs for our meat and we butchered a calf twice a year.

I had to walk five miles every day together across to feed the hogs. Later we raised pumpkins to fatten them.

During the following two years we raised enough cotton to pay up all our debts.

In the fall of 1892, we borrowed enough money to see us through the season. It cost us 24% interest. We lived in the lowlands, and a heavy rain could completely wash out our crops. That year we replanted three different times. We finally raised a crop that brought us \$2000.00. When we needed immediate supplies, we would sell a steer or calf.

When the Sac and Fox Reservation was opened for settlement, we had raised enough corn for Mr. Tudor to haul over there and sell quite a lot. He received \$1.00 a bushel for all he could supply.

I worked in the field along with him, plowing and harvesting our crops.

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My oldest boy was eight years old in 1893. He worked as hard as any man in the fields. One day Mr. Tudor took him to work with him quite a long distance from home. He had to ride a mule, bareback. The trip to work and back, besides the hard work he did was too much for the little fellow. He died that night.

We had never had a well on our place. We had always drunk creek water. At this time we felt we could afford to have a well dug. We paid for it in cattle.

We also bought some furniture, as everything we had, we had made ourselves.

There were quite a few deer on the place and that gave us a change of food. There also were prairie chicken, squirrel and rabbits. The streams afforded plenty of fish.

It was not all hard work, for after a school house was built, all the people from miles around would come to literaries, spelling bees and social gatherings. Always later we had a box or pie social.

When harvest time came each farmer and his family would go to the other farmer's home and help harvest his crop. The

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The ladies would prepare a large feast. These were called "Husking Bee". On winter days, maybe the ladies would gather at one another's home and have a "Quilting Bee," helping to get the winter bedclothing together. I never got to attend many social gatherings as Mr. Tudor did not approve.

When we first came out here we brought enough clothing to last about two years. My mother did all her spinning and weaving and when our clothing gave out she would spin and weave the cloth to make us new ones. She lived in Missouri and we would sometimes be a month or more getting a letter or package from her.

Before the Civil war my Grandfather, Joffry Wade, lived in Virginia. He owned a very large tobacco plantation and kept over one hundred negro slaves.

The people of Oklahoma were very much opposed to mixed schools. The citizens would gather in the school house to vote for or against them. We finally succeeded in getting separate schools.

I never left the farm to go to town but once a year.

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When I did go I rode in a buckboard, drawn by two mules
or rode a mule without a saddle.

I made my own soap and washed our clothes out of
doors in an immense iron kettle over a fire.

We lived on the homestead from 1899 until 1907.