

WALKER, J. W. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW

4564

396

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

WALKER, J. W. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW.

#4564.

Field Worker's name Lillian M. Gassaway,

This report made on (date) June 17, 1937.

1. Name Mrs. J. W. Walker,

2. Post Office Address Anadarko, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 102 W. Washington Street.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Mth March Day 4 Year 1862

5. Place of birth Indiana.

6. Name of Father Caleb Pennock Place of birth

Other information about father

7. Name of Mother Rebecca Connor Place of birth Indiana.

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 Three.

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Lillian M. Cassaway,
Field Worker.
June 17, 1937.

Interview with Mrs. J. W. Walker,
102 W. Washington Street, Anadarko.

I came to Oklahoma in 1892 at the opening of the Cheyenne country. I now live in Anadarko.

My father, Caleb Pennock, was born in Indiana in 1825 and died in 1905.

My mother, Rebecca Connor, was born in Indiana 1826; died in 1884.

Mr. Walker and I brought our family to Oklahoma at the time of the El Reno run at the opening of the Cheyenne country in 1892. There was nothing at El Reno then but six houses.

The run started from the Rock Island Schoolhouse six miles west of El Reno and went west. Mr. Walker went in on horseback and I followed in a wagon. We had four small children then, one of them was a very small baby. I spread a quilt on the bottom of the wagon and we sat flat on that and, of course, I drove like mad.

People were there making this run in every imaginable way, on horseback, in wagons and buggies, even on foot. The

WALKER, J. W. (MRS.)

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#4564.

2

line was formed six miles west of El Reno and when the shot was fired everyone started. We were very lucky. Mr. Walker staked our claim just two miles from the line. We lived there in a tent for a while, then we built a two room house, one room downstairs and one upstairs. We lived there for nine years when on account of bad crops we sold our claim and moved to Caddo County in 1901.

When two people staked the same claim, they fought over the ownership of it. Mr. Walker's sister staked a claim just a little north and west of ours. There was another woman, a very large fat woman who said that she had the place first, that she had run in on foot. She dug a hole in the ground and sat down in it and said that she was going to stay. It was thought that she had slipped on before the start, for it was impossible for a woman of her size to run that far so quickly. One day she disappeared and was never heard of again.

One man who started on horseback was thrown from his horse and his leg was broken. Some of his friends staked the place where he fell for him. It was only a mile from

WALKER, J. W. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW.

#4564.

3

the starting place.

These were exciting times and to look back they
seem rather awful.