

INDEX CARDS:

Opening Cherokee Strip  
Pond Creek

WALKER, MINNIE. INTERVIEW. BIOGRAPHY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Pearl E. Parker.

This report made on (date) July 9, 1937

1. Name Mrs. Minnie Walker.

2. Post Office Address Cherokee, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 420 West Main.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 14 Year 1866.

5. Place of birth Merger County, Illinois.

6. Name of Father Benjamin Essley Place of birth Indiana

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

7. Name of Mother Eliza Jane Reed. Place of birth Illinois.

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 2.

Pearl Parker,  
Interviewer.

An interview with Mrs. Minnie Walker  
about the opening of the Cherokee  
Strip and later settlements.

I was born and reared in Mercer County, Illinois.

At the age of thirty-five years, my husband and I went to Caldwell, Kansas. We left Caldwell, Kansas, in the fall of 1893. My husband, and John Ballard, and two other men and I started on horseback to Oklahoma at the opening <sup>of</sup> the Cherokee Strip. Sometimes we would have to stop and rest our horses, sponge each other's horses to rest them, and give them a good rub down. We were afraid we wouldn't make it. Finally we filed on a place not far from Pond, known now as Pond-creek, Oklahoma, east of Cherokee. I didn't keep this claim, for I was dissatisfied with it, so finally sold it to another party. We didn't build on it for we knew we wouldn't stay there. We then went back to Caldwell, and brought down a few of our belongings, such as they were. We bought a place one mile south of Lambert, Oklahoma, which is south of Cherokee, Oklahoma. We then got busy, and put up a two room sod shanty. We thought we were getting along fine, so it seemed good to be settled once again. The next day after we got settled, we took our saddle horse and a gunny sack and

WALKER, MINNIE. INTERVIEW.

417  
4787.

-2-

started out to find a place to buy some groceries.

We met a man on the road and he told us there was a little town on ahead that was called Alburn. It had a little country store. There I laid in a supply of groceries and started back home.

We sometimes drove to Alva, Oklahoma, in Woods County for supplies.

We often shot wild turkeys, and frequently we saw antelope.

We finally got two cows, so I made butter and sold it to the neighbors.

I have a cake plate which is one hundred and fifty years old.

My age at this time is seventy-one years and I am in good health.

INDEX ON

yand tles

Glens-- yand tte

asonic lodges-- yand tte

enovel-- yand tte

ouses-- yand tte

alker, Matthew

Creyennes

ederal relations-- diplomatic community

Clay, Henry

Houston, Sam

, Texas-- yand ttes

Delawares

ictographs-- yand tte

Legends-- yand tte

Cartier, Jacques

Senecas

Citizenship-- Cherokee

clitcal arties-- Cherokee

ayments-- Cherokee

e,ressions-- 170

Collections