

WADE, U. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW

#8079

75

BIOGRAPHY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

76

WADE, U. (MRS.) INTERVIEW. 8079

Field Worker's name Ruth Lee Gamblin

This report made on (date) July 26, 1937

1. Name Mrs. U. Wade

2. Post Office Address Frederick, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) North Fourth Street

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month May Day 15 Year 1870

5. Place of birth Missouri

6. Name of Father \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

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

7. Name of Mother \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

WADE, U. (MRS.) INTERVIEW. 8079

77

Ruth Lee Gamblin  
Field Worker  
July 26, 1937

Interview with Mrs. U. Wade  
North 4th St., Frederick, Okla.

I was born in Missouri, May 15, 1870. My father and mother ran a general merchandise store in Joplin, Missouri, and I worked in the store until I married, in 1886.

My husband did carpenter work after we married and we continued to live in Missouri until the opening of the Cherokee Strip, in 1893.

Mr. Wade decided that we could make money over night ~~so he~~ came down and drew a farm in the Cherokee Strip. He then returned to Missouri after me. We had two wagons so Mr. Wade hired a man to drive one wagon and he and I drove the other one. It was a lonely trip and also very cold. We had a stove in our wagon, but at times you would not notice the stove. It took us twelve days to make the trip.

Our farm was twenty miles from Perry, which was the only town and it consisted of only six or seven stores.

-2-

We only stayed on this farm four years and then gave it back to the Government as a big drouth came on and we couldn't raise a thing. When the drouth did break the rain almost ruined everything; however, it was too late for the crops. Mr. Wade built our house himself and only had a hatchet and fire shovel. The house was stone, two thick. We had to go three or four miles after the stone. The roof was split logs covered with dirt. It also had a dirt floor. No one knows just what hard times really are until they live through some of the things that we did in those days. We didn't have money so we had to trade anything we could for groceries. I sold butter and eggs and had to take them sixteen miles. We bought flour for 45¢ a sack. A Kansas mill brought the flour down for nothing.

The country was very lonely then, as there were very few people living in that part of the state. So many tried to homestead the land but had to move away after the drouth came on. We stayed on the farm until 1897 and finally gave the land back to the Government, and moved to Kansas and stayed until 1900. Mr. Wade

WADE, U. (MRS.) INTERVIEW. 8079

-3-

then came to Lawton and filed and drew a farm three miles south of Frederick.

Pioneers and homesteaders in this country don't know anything about hard times. We homesteaded two places and this was very easy. People in this part did have enough to eat, however, we did have many hardships to go up against. I stayed on the farm and looked after the breaking of the land while my husband did carpenter-work. We finally got our farm clear and now enjoy thinking about olden times.