

WASHINGTON, LUCY.

INTERVIEW

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

WASHINGTON, LUCY - INTERVIEW.

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Field Worker's name Margaret McGuire

This report made on (date) August 25 1937

1. Name Mrs. Lucy Washington

2. Post Office Address Eufaula, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) Southwest of Eufaula

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

5. Place of birth Oklahoma

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 Three

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McGuire, Margaret - Interviewer.
Indian Pioneer History - S-149.
August 25, 1937.

Interview with Mrs. Lucy Washington,
Eufaula, Oklahoma.

I belong to the Creek tribe, and belong to the Tiger clan. I have always lived with my own tribe. My father and mother died when I was five years old and some colored people took me and cared for me until I was grown.

I was born in the Territory and I have never gone to school. I don't know what my father and mother did for a living, as I was too young to remember. The negroes who raised me were farmers.

The Esparhechar War, I remember, was fought in and around the place where Okmulgee is now. It was all Creek Indians, but I don't remember what the war was about.

When we had the Civil War, when that War came up, I was between sixteen and twenty years old.

The Indians made their pottery out of a certain clay, a light grey clay that didn't have any sand in it; it was sticky and we would mix just enough water in it to make it soft enough to mold; then we would mold it with our hands into just the shape we wanted it; then we would make a hot

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fire and put the pottery in it and bake it until it was good and dry. We would take it out and while real hot, we would take a feather and make the designs; the hot stone would scorch the feather and that made the design.

Indian mattings were made of deer and buffalo skins, the insides of which were scraped well to get all the fat off, then they were stretched over hot coals until they were cured, then they were sewed together, or laced together, with bark or strings from the skins, and when good and dry these mattings were put down on the dirt floors of one and two-room log houses. The Indians didn't have planks on their floors, using dirt floors instead, but they were always clean, and never dusty. These rugs made of skins were real warm in winter.

They made cloth out of cotton. After spinning the thread, they wove the cloth on a loom. They used barks from trees to make the dye. They used black walnut, cherry, cedar and many other barks. They could make all colors by mixing the dyes.

I have reared four orphan girls but only two lived to be grown. I took one little baby-girl, when she was a real young baby, and she is still living.

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The first school that I remember was across Mill Creek, near Malette. The teacher's name was Mr. Hays; he was from the North. I went to school to him before the Civil War. I remember when Abraham Lincoln set the negroes free. I lived at Muskogee when the first railroad was built through the Territory. I moved here on my allotment, and have lived in this little log house now for about thirty-five years.

My husband is buried at the Shell Creek burial ground.