

WARTHEM, MAGGIE (CLANTON)

SECOND INTERVIEW

8655

334

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

WARTHEN, . MAGGIE (CLANTON) SECOND INTERVIEW. 8655

Field Worker's name Zaiden B. Hland,

This report made on (date) September 24, 1937

1. Name Mrs. Maggie (Clanton) Warthen,

2. Post Office Address Altus, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 320 East Pecan Street,

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month May Day 25 Year 1866

5. Place of birth Cambridge, Saline County, Missouri.

6. Name of Father W. G. Baxter, Place of birth Kentucky.

Other information about father _____

Name of Mother Mary McCormick, Place of birth Kentucky.

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 6.

WARTHEM, MAGGIE (CLANTON) SECOND INTERVIEW. 8655

Zaldee B. Eland,
Field Worker,
September 24, 1937.

An Interview with Mrs. Maggie (Clanton) Warthem,
320 East Pecan Street,
Altus, Oklahoma.

Just after the controversy over this part of the country was settled, my first husband, Mr. Clanton, bought out a claim six miles from the town of Eldorado. We traded some land and stock and \$350.00 in cash. I still own the land which is the N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ 34--1N--24 West, Indian Base and Meridian. I am three miles north and three miles west of Eldorado. Mr. Clanton was a wheelwright. I do not think there was a thing out of wood he could not make. He always owned a blacksmith shop but never worked in it. There was a little two-room house on this place and a well of water. This water was so salty that not even the hogs would drink it. He did not move our furniture with us but only brought with us a camping outfit. We dug a well and put up a windmill, and began to gather around us some stock and put out an orchard. We had a little money and intending to make a real home, we ordered \$50.00 worth of trees, got some registered hogs and

WARTHEN, MAGGIE (CLANTON) SECOND INTERVIEW. 8655

-2-

good cattle, built us another room two stories high in front of the little two rooms, sent for our furniture and started to living on the new land.

We had Chester White hogs. A sow usually brought ten or twelve pigs at farrowing and we could get 8 cents a pound for all the fat hogs we had to sell. I mean 8 cents a pound on foot. We had Muley Red Durham cattle; they made good stock cattle but were not much good for milk or butter. I never sold a pound of butter or a gallon of milk in my life. I have given away a lot. Mostly we fed the milk that we did not consume to the chickens and pigs. I did not bother about raising very fine chickens but just had a mixture. I thought them healthier that way. I raised bronze turkeys, however, and thought 8 cents a pound on foot a good price for them and I made good money selling them. A good cow and calf would bring only \$25.00. We bought catawba trees for shade trees but I am sorry to say that we could not make a tree of any kind grow on our farm. We have a sandy, gray, coarse soil and I cannot see why trees will not grow unless it is from the lack of moisture.

WARTHEN, MAGGIE. (CLANTON) SECOND INTERVIEW. 8655.

-3-

Mr Clanton only lived a few years and that left me with five children to raise. My oldest boy was thirteen. One girl was older. We never had a dime of mortgage on the land in our life though; so we carried on. The boys would go to school and when they would get home in the afternoon I would have their horses in the lot and sometimes harnessed and the boys would slip off their school clothes, get into overalls and plow until night. We had a one-room schoolhouse a mile and a half southwest of our home and a church house a mile and a half due north of us.

When we brought up our furniture we brought with the other things an Estey organ. Our place became the center of all social activities. There was never a day too cold or hot, a night too black or stormy but that my latchstring was on the outside for company.

The meals I cooked could not be numbered.. I always boarded the teachers and had the preachers stay with us. Of course, I had a little larger house than anyone else. Then we moved our linens and dishes and I was a little better equipped than most of the other neighbors.

WARTHEN, MAGGIE (CLANTON) SECOND INTERVIEW. 8635

-4-

I still have a four piece oak bedroom suit and a big heavy, round oak dining table that gave us grave concern to get it forded across Red River. Everything had to be brought in wagons from Vernon, even the lumber for the new rooms. My dressers and washstands are marble topped; the headpiece to the bed is six feet tall and the wardrobe is collapsible so you can lay it down to move it. I sent my oldest boy and girl to Fort Worth to finish school and there they both studied telegraphy and when they got work in town, I moved to town to make home for them. I had an old Brussels carpet on the parlor floor and that carpet was famous in pioneer days. If we had more visitors than we had beds, I would say, "Boys, get your pillows and throw open the door of the parlor." Of course, I always tried to keep the parlor as clean as could be and if a storm was brooding I always gathered all my own family into this room and we have slept as a family on the "Old Brussels".

I had a Graves and Baker Sewing Machine and we had a lot of fun making all our clothes. Many nights the girls have stayed up and sewed all night to get a dress made for

WARTHEM, MAGGIE (CLANTON) SECOND INTERVIEW. 8655

-5-

a special occasion. I have a nice Singer now but it does not sew a bit better than my old machine, hasn't made half the clothes nor given the joy that that old machine did.

Our house was always open for clean fun and we had it, too. I will wager that more couples became engaged while sitting on my sofa than on any other sofa in existence for if we thought a girl and boy wanted to get real serious all the other company was "skiddoed" out of the parlor to some other part of the house. The midnight oil was burned lots of times at our house to make it a safe, decent place for young people to court.

My memories of my neighbors and friends are pleasant.

I have lately become Mrs. Warthem for after all my children are all married and away from home. Mr. Warthem was not a pioneer.