

LEAVER, J. J. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW

8990

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

WEAVER, MRS. M.:J. INTERVIEW 8990

Field Worker's name Virgil Coursey

Report made on (date) October 31 1937

First Church organization at Navajo.

Name Mrs. M. J. Weaver

Post Office Address Altus, Oklahoma.

Residence address (or location) 420 West Cypress

DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

Place of birth _____

Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about father _____

Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about mother _____

as or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and
cy of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects
questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to
form. Number of sheets attached _____

Virgil Coursey
Investigator
September 7, 1937

Interview with
Mrs. M. J. Weaver
420 West Cypress
Altus, Oklahoma.

THE FIRST CHURCH ORGANIZATION AT LAVAJO
Read at Baptist Rally, September 7, 1937
at Blair.

The first organization of a church in Greer County was a Baptist Church. It was on the Navajo Creek under some elm trees. We sat on logs that the men had hauled from Altus Creek and split open so that we might sit on the flat side. We held our meetings under these trees until late in the Fall. Some of the men of the neighborhood decided to build a school house. The lumber had to be hauled from Vernon, a distance of thirty-five miles.

The building was 18 x 20 feet and our church was given the privilege of holding our meetings in this school, which we did for several years.

Brother J. I. Newman was the first to teach a subscription school in this building.

In the winter of 1907, Brother F. R. Morgan and

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his wife brought their membership into the Church. Brother Newman and wife and Brother Morgan and wife were great assets to our Church. After Brother Newman resigned as pastor, Brother Morgan was called as our pastor and served for several years.

As our Church grew we needed more room. We bought a building that had been used for a skating rink. This building was moved to a better location and repaired and we were indeed proud of our new Church home.

In this building I heard Brother J. W. Solomon preach his first sermon and it was in this building that our beloved neighbor, John D. Easley, who was afterwards elected sheriff of Jackson County was converted.

Our pastor's salary in those days was \$45.00 or \$50.00 a year.

I can now recall a number of good preachers who came into Greer County in the early days, like Brothers T. B. Duncan, J. M. Newman, P. F. Medlin,

W. D. Lawther, E. C. Leak, David Adams and Brother Tindley.

Brother and Sister J. W. Solomon, and a number of others too numerous to mention, helped to lay the Baptist foundation of our County.

Along with the hardships of those pioneer days comes pleasant memories of the good fellowship which we enjoyed in our church relations. Words cannot express the joy we experienced in those primitive gatherings.