

WILSON, LUCY (Sweet) INTERVIEW.

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

#1245

Field Worker's name Ruth Kerbo

This report made on (date) April 13, 1937

1. Name Mrs. Lucy Sweet Wilson

2. Post Office Address Mangum, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 1 mile south of Mangum.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month January Day 2 Year 1868

5. Place of birth Seyane, Texas.

6. Name of Father Henry Clay Sweet Place of birth Illinois

Other information about father Surveyor by trade.

7. Name of Mother Elizabeth Peeler Place of Birth Illinois

Other information about mother.

Notes or partial 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 7

An interview with Mrs. Lucy Sweet Wilson.
By - Ruth Kerbo - Field Worker.

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Mrs. Lucy Sweet Wilson, who came to Greer County, Texas, April 19, 1884, has the distinction of being the first white woman to have lived in this territory, a check of early day records reveals.

Mrs. Wilson, then a girl sixteen years old, carried one end of the chain which her father used to lay the Mangum Townsite.

Coming from Hamilton, Texas, with her father, Mrs. Wilson recalls that the party camped on the Elm River after arriving in a covered wagon. Her father was a surveyor and came to the new country to follow his profession.

At that time, the country was occupied chiefly by large cattle operators, who regarded the coming of new immigrants as an intrusion. They wished to have the land entirely for their cattle unincumbered by townsites, or other means of civilization.

Most of the country around the present site of Mangum was occupied by the famous Bar X Ranch, which was forty miles square. Mrs. Wilson was the only white woman in this territory, with the exception of a ranch foreman's wife who lived a short time at the Bar X head-

quarters ranch on Turkey Creek.

Probably the first load of hay ever reaped in Greer County was gleaned by Mrs. Wilson's father, Henry C. Sweet, on the land where the court house now stands.

Antelope and deer were plentiful, although buffalo were almost extinct even then.

Mr. Sweet traded for a log cabin, which he moved to Mangum and reconstructed into one of the earliest homes in the country. He secured some shingles for the roof, and the cracks between the logs were stripped with tin cans that had been opened and straightened out.

The cowboys in this section called Mangum, "The Tin City".

With Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Crouch, Mr. and Mrs. Pearson, Mrs. Dan Cullins' parents, and Nigel and Ed Claunch, the colony in Mangum townsite proceeded to thrive.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Crouch took their first boarders in a tent, and erected the first hotel in the country in 1885.

Eggs were a rare delicacy, since poultry raising had made little progress in those pioneer days. There-

fore, when some of Mrs. Wilson's brothers found some wild turkey eggs to be used in making a cake, the treat was greatly enjoyed by everyone.

Later Mr. Sweet brought lumber from Wichita Falls, Texas, and constructed a building which was used as the office of the Mangum Star, published by Major Dawson, a Yankee, who came to this section from Vernon, Texas.

In 1886, the county organization was effected. Officers were named and a postoffice was established. Mr. Sweet was postmaster for twelve years, beginning his term while the country was still a part of Texas.

An excavation was made for a dugout and a large sod chimney was made for the family's comfort the first winter Mrs. Wilson recalls. They secured mesquite roots for fuel until some men began hauling wood from the Indian Territory to the country to sell. Mrs. Wilson read the Bible and Shakespeare, the only books the family had. She recalls that pitching horseshoes with her brothers was their greatest sport. She would often hunt rabbits for her pet wild cat, which had been given to her by a cowboy. Mrs. Wilson recalls that

better on the 21st. The party was about 1000 men and
 in. Several parties were sent to the
 expedition. The party consisted of about
 two or three hundred men.

Battle was fought on the 21st
 early dawn and the battle was over by 11
 three in the day. The Indians were killed
 a prisoner that was taken. It was a

Some cattlemen went to the place with their
 cattle and upon returning home they brought with
 them a negro boy about 15 years of age. This
 was probably the first negro in this part of
 the country. The neighbors thought it best to
 leave him about the Indians being so fierce and the
 boy negro boy was afraid to leave the house

on an errand for his mistress.

Quannah Parker made a speech at a picnic over
 near the Navajo Mountains, and Mrs. Wilson, with her
 future husband and several other young people,
 attended the celebration.

Mrs. Wilson found some beads that were strewn
 on the ground where some moccasins had been hanging
 on a pole but she does not recall whether this par-

These were found south of Mangum.

Mrs. Wilson secured most of her clothing from the Sanger Brothers Dry Goods Company, at Dallas, Texas. Later someone showed them a catalogue from Montgomery Ward and Company and she began ordering from them and has been a regular customer for over fifty years.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have lived on their farm south of Mangum since 1887. Their marriage was an event of 1890, Mr. Wilson having come to the country from Vernon Texas.
