

SORRELL, CORA EDNA

INTERVIEW

#8994

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

WORRELL, CORA EDNA.

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Field Worker's name Elizabeth L. Duncan

This report made on (date) October 11 1937

1. Name Cora Edna Worrell

2. Post Office Address Pond Creek

3. Residence address (or location) 2 blocks South, one-half block west from bank.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month October Day 19 Year 1866

5. Place of birth Woodford County, Metamora, Illinois.

6. Name of Father Edgar L. Saunders Place of birth New York State
Cattaraugus County

Other information about father Farmer

7. Name of Mother Nancy E. Barney Place of birth Olney, Illinois

Other information about mother Housewife

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 _____.

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Interview with Cora Edna Saunders Worrell,
Pond Creek, Oklahoma.

Cora Edna Saunders Worrell was born in Metamora, Woodford County, Illinois, October 19, 1866. She remembers very little of her early childhood in Illinois, but their departure from Illinois to Lowell, Nebraska, she remembers very vividly.

Cora attended school until she had graduated from the Eighth grade.

Around in the neighborhood of Lowell, Nebraska, quite a few people gathered together and began to talk about coming down to Indian Territory to take homesteads. John Jansen was one of the neighbors who was coming down, so he asked Cora if she cared to come and told her she could come down with his family.

Mr. Jansen came ahead and made the Run. He staked his claim four miles east of North Enid. After looking the country over, he finally located a place that had been abandoned; it seemed the party who had staked the claim had broken some of the sod and started to build a sod house. Mr. Jansen kept a watch out to see if he returned, but no one ever came back.

It was the 15th of December, 1893, when the Jansen family and Cora arrived in Enid. They were met by Mr. Jansen and

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Bert Ford, a young man who came down with Mr. Jansen. The folks were taken to the hotel. The next day Bert Ford took a buggy and horse and took Cora out to see the place that Mr. Jansen had told her about.

Mr. Jansen took Cora to the filing booth. But when they got there the people were all over the square, the filing booth was on the square. Two days Cora stood in line but didn't get to file. The third day she and Mr. Jansen began their waiting, but they had gotten there early and the office had not been opened. The people began to ask when they were going to open the office and the officers kept telling them they would after a while, but noon came and the office was not open. Mr. Jansen couldn't stay any longer so he left Bert Ford with Cora. Soon after one o'clock the crowd began to "holler" and yell at the men in the office. Finally, one of the men came out and told them that if they would get into line the office would be opened but they got into line and marched around the square, and Cora told Bert that she would lead the line so she started out and all the crowd yelled and cheered her. She was at the head of the crowd and they marched around the square twice and she was the first one to get to file.

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After filing Cora went back to the hotel and made preparation to go back as far as Hutchinson, Kansas, with Mr. Jansen and folks; then she went back to Lowell, Nebraska, to stay the rest of the winter.

Late in the spring of '94, John Jansen built a sixteen foot square building. It had two windows in it, and one door. It had an east front. One of the neighbor boys broke ten acres of sod for Cora and planted corn and she came down in the spring to live on her place. The neighbor across the road was a white man with a colored wife. Cora carried water from her neighbor's place the three years she lived on the place.

The first year and half Cora spent mostly in Enid, but she spent sometime on the farm each month. The city of Enid was mostly made up of tents for homes, but there were some frame houses.

She also did dressmaking.

In the year 1897 Cora paid her claim out. The Government asked \$1.25 an acre. She received her Government Patent in 1897.

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On August 19, 1897, Cora was married to John Worrell. She then sold her homestead for \$1500.00 and they moved onto Mr. Worrell's place. It was the NE₄, Section 26, Township 25, Range 5. It was seven miles southeast of Pond Creek.

They lived on this place a year and then moved into Pond Creek where Mr. Worrell went into the real estate business. Then they adopted two boys, Otto and Frank Hensen.

After Mr. Worrell's death, Mrs. Worrell had the sole responsibility of the two children. She put them through school and Frank went to college. She did sewing to help out.

Mrs. Worrell still lives in Pond Creek by herself; her adopted sons have proven to be wonderful to her.