

YERIAN, MANDANIA FIEDELIA

INTERVIEW #4687 **158**

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

YERIAN, MANDANIA FIEDELIA.

INTERVIEW.

4687.

Field Worker's name Elizabeth L. Duncan.

This report made on (date) June 18-19, 1937. 1937

1. Name Mandania Fiedelia Yerian.

2. Post Office Address Medford, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) The first house in the 1st block,  
on Second Street.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month July Day 15 Year 1849.

5. Place of birth Plasqua, Mercer County, Pennsylvania.

6. Name of Father George Gearheart Place of birth Pennsy'vania.

Other information about father Teacher.

7. Name of Mother Rache' Cameron Place of birth Pittsburg,  
Pennsylvania.

Other information about mother Tailor.

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 4.

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Interviewer, Elizabeth L. Duncan  
June 18-19. 1937.

Interview with Mandania Fiedelia Yerian,  
Medford, Oklahoma.

Mandania Gearheart lived in Pennsylvania while a young girl. Her folks were considered pretty well-to-do, her mother's parents being well off financially. When she was fourteen she met Mr. Yerian and two years later they were married, and came to Kansas to take a claim, where they lived there until two years after the opening of the Cherokee Strip.

Two of the Yerian boys were old enough to take claims but Mr. and Mrs. Yerian told them not to make the Run for they were afraid that the boys would get hurt. The parents promised to buy a farm for each boy if they would not make the Run.

In the year of 1895, Mr. Yerian came down here with George to look about for a farm. They found a farm located one mile west and a half mile south of Clyde. It was not improved very much. It had a dugout on it. Then Dan, who was in college, said, "If you buy George a

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farm, I want one", so they bought another place which George took, seven miles west and one mile north of Medford. George's place had a number of good improvements on it.

Mrs. Yerian told Mr. Yerian that she couldn't stay away from the boys, so Mr. Yerian said that he would sell and come down here and get a farm.

In the Fall of 1895, Mr. Yerian came down and tried to buy the rights of a man, but another man overheard the conversation and filed a contest, and that kept Mr. Yerian, from buying. He tried to purchase a second farm which was also contested and the third farm was finally purchased.

When they came down, they had three new wagons, one old one. They put all they could put on these wagons, household goods, plow, cultivator, mower, drill etc. They brought twenty head of cattle, twenty head of horses, five pigs, two dozen chickens, two dogs, three kittens, and also a pet duck.

It took them seven days to come through. On the fifth day out, that night, Mr. Yerian saw a bunch of cowboys out on the prairie, all standing around a tree. Mr. Yerian drove up to ask what was the matter. But he

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did not have to listen to the reply - he saw a man hanging on the end of a rope with a rope about his neck, dead. By that time a young cowboy said, "That is what we do to horse thieves". Mr. Yerian said, "I guess we will be on our way". A bunch of the boys grabbed the front horses and said, "You are going to stay until we finish". So, they had to stay for they had two more of the outlaws, so Mr. and Mrs. Yerian were compelled to look on sights that were very repulsive to them. When this was done the cowboys then said to Mr. Yerian, "How far do you have to go with this stock?" Mr. Yerian told them and they didn't say anything to him, but they talked among themselves. They all got on their horses and started the stock on the move, and three other boys took the three remaining wagons over. The leader of the bunch said, "We will help you with your moving". It was a relief to Mr. and Mrs. Yerian as they did not have to watch the stock so closely. The two dogs Mr. Yerian had brought with him had herded the cattle and horses by themselves as they had been trained to do that.

On the seventh day, at dusk, they finally reached their destination. The cowboys stayed with them until

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they were settled in their home. They then returned to Cameron.

The place had been broken out and had pretty good improvements but Mr. Yerian set to work to build a better house and improve it all the way around with things such as the barns, and chicken houses.

In the Spring of 1896, Mr. Yerian planted corn and it was very poor. Then in the Fall, he planted wheat.

That year was a busy year for them as the two boys were struggling along trying to get a start. Mr. and Mrs. Yerian helped all they could.

In the year of 1897, they had a bumper crop—one of the best crops they ever had.

The years that followed were very prosperous years, adding to their acreage each year. They stayed on this place fifteen years, then moved to town, letting one of the daughters have the old home place. At the time of their retirement, they had five half sections.