

· YOUNG, CLARA

INTERVIEW

#9385

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

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Field Worker's name Ethel B. Tackitt

This report made on (date) November 24 1937

1. Name Mrs. Clara Young

2. Post Office Address Lone Wolf, Kiowa County, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) Lone Wolf,

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month May Day 17 Year 1901

5. Place of birth Red Oak near Present town of Medill, Okla

6. Name of Father James-Lamuel Howell Place of birth Georgia

Other information about father Pioneer Indian Territory
Howell Farmer

7. Name of Mother Martha Patterson Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about mother Pioneer 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 3

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Ethel B. Tackitt,
Investigator,
November 24, 1937.

An Interview with Mrs. Clara Young,
Lone Wolf, Oklahoma.

My father was James Lemuel Howell, a native of Georgia, and my mother was Martha Ann Patterson Howell, a native of Tennessee. They moved from Whitewright, Grayson County, Texas, to the Choctaw Indian Nation about 1896; they were accompanied by my mother's parents, George and Martha Patterson, who had moved several years before from Tennessee to Texas.

My mother's people having lived in the mountains of Tennessee, as she often related to us, their children had never known the hardships and privations of the Western country nor anything but the best of health, for until my mother was quite a large girl, she had never seen a physician. A neighbor became ill and they heard that a doctor was coming to the home and my grandmother permitted her children to go to the neighbor's home for the purpose of beholding a doctor and to Mother's surprise, she found him to be only a man.

My family having grown up this way, found the climate

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of the swamps of the Blue River, Washita River and the creeks feeding into the Red River to be most unhealthful for them, as the undergrowth was thick and most of the farm lands that produced, well were located in the lowlands on streams.

There were but few white people in that part of the country and all lands were leased from Indians.

Our house was built of rough logs and most of the furniture was homemade, Father having used the timber on the land for all of the building.

On account of the swamps and the hard living conditions, my grandfather and grandmother Patterson did not live many years and my parents moved to a place near Madill now in Marshall County.

Here they had a farm and grew their own corn which was taken to mill and ground for bread, they also grew cane and made their own molasses and were able to have more and better food and Father was able to secure work at freighting for merchants at Ardmore. This gave our family a better support but as the roads were rough and unworked it was a long and tedious task to haul freight

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over them as it had to be hauled by wagon and teams from Ardmore to the little stores over the country and Father would often be away from home weeks at a time leaving Mother with her small children.

She learned to depend upon her self to protect her family and when they were sick she gave them some remedies of teas and herbs. Mullein tea was used through-out the Winter for colds.

When the oil-fields developed in that part of the country everything changed at once; people came in; the roads were worked and it was easy for people to make money. My father and brothers worked at the oil-fields for awhile but Father was not content and went back to the farm.

At present, he owns a small tract of land east of Ardmore and continues, with the help of my mother to make their living in a place not far from the place where they settled forty-six years ago.

Father and Mother like to think of themselves as pioneer farmers of Oklahoma.