

MILLER, PAULINE

INTERVIEW

#4680

220

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

MILLER, PAULINA.

INTERVIEW.

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Field Worker's name Ethel Mae Yates.

This report made on (date) June 30, 1937. 1937

1. Name Pauline Miller.

2. Post Office Address Elk City, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 82nd West 3rd Street.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 6 Year 1850.

5. Place of birth Indiana.

6. Name of Father Jessie Creach Place of birth Tennessee.

Other information about father: My father was exempt from war.

7. Name of Mother Rosetta Creach. Place of birth Indiana.

Other information about 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.

Ethel Mae Yates
Interviewer
June 30, 1937

An Interview with Paulina Miller
Elk City, Oklahoma.

My father and mother were married in Indiana and came to Illinois when I was five years old and moved into a little log house with a brush arbor in front of it.

The children played there and one day a rattlesnake crawled up there and bit my brother; we ran to the field and told our daddy that a worm had crawled up there and he came running and found the snake and killed it. I remember that my brother almost died from the bite, and that they had a hard struggle to save him.

My husband, Mr. Allen Miller, made the Run and filed on a place three miles west of Cheyenne in the year 1892.

We didn't come like most of the people did and live in a dugout but my husband came and built us a nice little two room house. He had to haul the lumber from Amarillo and Canadian, Texas, to build the house and then we moved to our new home.

We brought with us ten cows and some chickens. We dug a well but the water was so gypsy that we couldn't

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drink it so we had to haul our water from the Washita River until we could get a cistern dug.

We put out an orchard of almost every kind of fruit and raised good crops and wonderful gardens; had vegetables until we didn't know what to do with them.

People didn't know how to can their stuff and save it then like they do now.

When we came here, we were on the road a week but had a tent to camp in and it was cold and sleeting and snowing.

Cheyenne was just a little old place when we came there; the courthouse was a little old log house; there were a few houses, a store or two and one or two saloons. Cheyenne didn't have any school house but they taught a school in a residence.

I never will forget one scare that we got from the Indians. An Indian man had come to town and done his trading and was going home and a man whom they called a ranger followed this Indian out of town and shot and killed him instantly. It was supposed that this Ranger was drinking. The sheriff whom they called "Skiletty Bill"

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put him in jail but just as soon as the Indians heard about the murder they got on the war path and about eighty of them heavily armed were coming to take the Ranger by force and when the people heard the Indians were coming nearly all of them left town and went to an old rock house for protection and stayed there three or four days until they got the Indians settled down.

The white people kept the Ranger in the Cheyenne jail about a year; the Indians would come over every few days to see if he was still in jail. The white people then took him over into another county and kept him there for a while and then set the time for his trial and when the time came for the trial not an Indian appeared against him so they turned him loose and told him to leave the country and they wouldn't bother him and that was the last time that he was ever seen or heard of in that part of the country.