

CASH, EVA M.

INTERVIEW

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

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Field Worker's name Ophelia D. Vestal

This report made on (date) January 24, 1938

1. Name Mrs. Eva M. Cash

2. Post Office Address Lawton, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 406 B Ave.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month June Day 19 Year _____

5. Place of birth Germany - about 55 years old.

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

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

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Ophelia D. Vestal,
Investigator,
January 24, 1938.

An Interview with Mrs. Eva Cash,
406 B. Ave., Lawton, Oklahoma.

I was born in Germany, the eastern part near Russia, many years ago and came to America with my family when I was a small girl. We lived in North Dakota several years. In some way my father heard that an old friend of his from back in the old country was in Oklahoma. A few months later, after corresponding with this friend, Father decided to move to Carney. It was at Carney that I met the Cash family; I later was married to W.S. Cash:

We moved to California for a few years, returning to Oklahoma during the summer of 1901. We had tried to locate in California but as this was such a healthy place and all of us would get so homesick when we were away, my husband, my brother, George Young, the baby boy and I came here. We reached Lawton in August, 1901. Although the change was not so noticeable to a certain extent, we benefitted in health by changing gradually from a cool moist climate to a drier climate and a gradually colder winter weather.

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We bought three lots during the sale at the opening at Lawton. At once we put up tents to live in, we also put up tents to rent. In one tent we had a lunch and cold drink stand, also some groceries. At an early day we built a house to live in and soon started out in the coal business.

This was a beautiful country; such tall grass, beautiful trees and flowers, even though it was very dry. There was an abundance of wild fruit and game when the white people first came here. I started out to run the coal business for my husband while he and my brother operated some cotton gins; at one time they had seven gins. Everybody worked. One could hardly rest at nights there was so much noise of hammers; people were busy and all enjoying this pioneering. Money was spent freely with the thought that it would be made back soon. As the town grew, our business grew. We bought lots and sold lots. At one time we owned the lot where the Kress Store now stands; we bought it to build my dream home on. I lost my husband, then it was up to me to carry on all the business and raise

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my children; there were four boys and one girl. As our little town seemed so prosperous I thought I could do a good part by my children as we have always been known to have wonderful schools and churches, good citizens, good water and good laws.

In the early days among the first things I did was to have a nice cave put down. The little town of Snyder was blown away. That frightened the people here very much when we had bad looking clouds. Our cave was a neighborhood cave, as it was close in, everyone came to it.

A large prairie fire threatened the town once. People didn't know what to do. We hitched our old horse up to the buggy and drove down to one of the gins on the south side of town. The men had fought fire until they were exhausted. My family and I stayed at the gin expecting to leave at any minute when the fire got closer. Men fought fire all night, the wind was high and fires broke out very often; finally the wind changed and soon stopped blowing or we would have been burned out.