

NIXON, MAGGIE.

INTERVIEW

9150

501

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

**MIXON, MAGGIE**

**INTERVIEW.**

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Field Worker's name Zeida B. Bland

This report made on (date) November 10 1939

1. Name Mrs. Maggie Nixon

2. Post Office Address Altus, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 308 East Live Oak

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month May Day 24 Year 1884

5. Place of birth Pope County, Texas

6. Name of Father Macon Hornsby Place of birth Texas

Other information about father A merchant on wheels

7. Name of Mother Fannie Wilkinson Place of birth Texas

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 \_\_\_\_\_.

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Zelma B. Hand  
Journalist  
November 10, 1937

Interview with Mrs. Maggie Nixon  
308 East Live Oak, Altus, Oklahoma.

My father was what one would call a peddler. That is, he carried the goods to the doors of people's homes to sell to them instead of waiting for them to come to town and get the merchandise. He had an ordinary farm wagon with a house built on it with shelves and drawers all built along the sides. He carried domestic, calico, gingham, needles and thread, knitting needles, thimbles and the usual fill in for the housewife in those days but not much groceries, just some sugar, coffee, rice and a few things like that.

He took in pay chickens, ducks, turkeys, wool, cotton, potatoes, syrup - most anything that could be eaten or turned into cash.

Mother had a brother living on land one mile south of the town of Headrick. My uncle still lives on the farm. He bought a relinquishment and proved up. We moved to this country to be near him. The first year

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we rented a farm with a dugout on it one mile east of Uncle's. After that we moved over near where Tipton is now. Nearly everyone lived in dugouts. Everyone was in the same kind of houses so no one thought much about it.

Mother and some of the younger children came through in the wagon but a younger sister and myself came on the train to Vernon, Texas, and my uncle met us there. We got to Vernon in the afternoon. Uncle was already there, waiting for us, so we started to Uncle's home as soon as he could get our trunks. I thought there never was such a desert-looking country but we had already been out here visiting and had so many dear friends we were glad to come to live. There was no school for us to attend until the Hedrick school was built.

The most fun we had socially was attending play parties and going serenading. Our folks would not let us go to dances but we could go to play parties every night if there were any, and we sang the songs to the plays instead of having a violin play the tune. We swung our partners and went through all the figures of the old square dance with our singing. Sometimes we would have a

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candy break. The boys would bring this old-fashioned red stick peppermint candy and we would all form and go around the house. Coming by a door we would draw a number and match for partners and the number of pieces of candy we could have. When I was older we would have pie suppers and we girls would all bake pies and the boys would bid for our pies and whoever got our pie would be our partner for the evening and to supper.

The serenades were the very most fun of all. There would a crowd of us young people get together, usually we would have a French harp, a mandolin or banjo, a guitar and violin. We would play and sing too. That is the way we often got a place to have a party for nearly always some one would invite us in. There would be home-made cake or pie, cider or home-made wine or brandy to drink or sometimes we would make candy. We seldom went anywhere except in crowds that way. Buggy riding by couples might be indulged in on a Sunday afternoon but never just one couple went off alone at night unless they were engaged.

We did not think book learning so important for girls. Mother taught us how to cook and sew, darn, tend garden,

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make butter and to care for the sick. We would have thought it a disgrace for a girl to think of having a bean before she could cook a good meal alone or had several quilts of her own making and quilting.

Everyone raised hogs and chickens and turkeys and all the curing of the meat, making of soap and lard was strictly the woman's work and we all had to be trained. Mother always made up her soap in September or October before the weather was cold enough to freeze and it had to be made when the moon was new. I remember once we had a big fat hog to get too hot and die. Mother made soap out of him that afternoon.

The women of the family had to plan and plant and tend the garden. We raised lots of vegetables but never tried to can any. We dried a lot and were taught to can and preserve all kinds of fruit that we could get, both wild and tame.

Hallowe'en we simply made a pumpkin face and if we were lucky there would be a party somewhere and we would have apples in a tub of water to see who could get one with their mouth and walking down the cellar stairs with

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a lighted candle holding a mirror in our hands looking for the face of our future husband. We used to have May parties too. Then we would look in the well for the face of our future mate. We were raised with one thought of making some man a good industrious wife and being happy in the midst of our own children if God gave us some.

As I remember it my girlhood was very happy. Of course there were lean years and good years but finance was not discussed in the family. A new hat or dress was not bought until needed and some way the money was handy when it was needed. If a hat was good and looked nice we never thought of getting a new one because it was last year's hat. And never did it occur to us not to wear a hat or dress that an older sister had outgrown. That was just as natural as the rising of the sun.

I remember once going near the mountains and camping a whole week and attending what was called a camp meeting. We took along a small stove to cook on. The girls slept in a tent and the men and boys out under the stars. My! how people did get religion and it was a brand that lasted a lifetime too.