

CORYELL, BIRDIE.

SECOND INTERVIEW 10142

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

#10142

CORYELL, BIRDIE Mrs. SECOND INTERVIEW.

Field Worker's name Ophelia D. Vestal

This report made on (date) March 2, 1938

Name Mrs. Birdie Coryell

Post Office Address Lawton, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 1202 Monroe Street.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month June Day 30 Year 1893

5. Place of birth Arkansas.

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about father _____

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 .

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An Interview with Mrs. Birdie Coryell, Lawton.
By - Ophelia D. Vestal, Investigator.
March 2, 1938.

My parents moved from Arkansas when I was two months old, staying in Eastern Oklahoma a while, then came here when I was about five years old. My father drew a farm near Quannah Parker's home northwest of Cache. We were among Quannah Parker's first white neighbors.

As there was a small creek running west of the Quannah Parker place, many times my father has hitched up the two mules to the wagon that we had moved to this country in, and taken us to the creek where we did the weeks washing, finding plenty of water there. Water wasn't so plentiful where we lived.

My father was known as 'Black Johnson' as there were many Johnsons here and father was of a dark complexion, so 'Black' was his nickname. He was quite a hand to rove through the mountains. He happened to notice some beautiful maple trees one time when people started to set trees out here. He went to the mountains and brought young maple trees that can now be seen on "A" Avenue and Gore Boulevard.

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The last fall we lived on the farm father took the older children, all of us going along, but father and the older ones working and they picked enough cotton to buy a lot at 907 'F' Street and a small house was erected on it and that was our first home in Lawton.

I went to my first school, which was in a wooden building of very small rooms, located on the corner of 5th Street and 'B' Avenue where the Carnegie Library now stands. My teacher's name was Miss Morton. There was another schoolhouse on the southeast corner of the same block. My school was located on the southwest side of the block. Then those two buildings were divided into small houses and moved away, and the present day Emerson school house made of brick was erected about the center of the block. My next school was at Lincoln and the building now stands. One of my children has gone to school to the same teacher now known as Mrs. Gorman, then Miss Morton.

As I have mentioned before my father was a great lover of the timber and the mountains. Many Sundays while we children were growing up, we would go to the mountains and to

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Fort Sill. I have found bows and arrows near Fort Sill where the Indians had thrown them away. My father used to say, "There'll be a large fort here some day" and he lived long enough to help put the foundation in for the new post. Father was killed in a rock crusher at Richard's Spur while working there to get rock to help build the new part of Fort Sill known as the new post.