

CONDUCT, ALICE.

INTERVIEW

10234

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

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Field Worker's name Don Moon, Jr.This report made on (date) March 17 19381. Name Mrs. Alice Condict2. Post Office Address Guthrie, Oklahoma3. Residence address (or location) 723 W. Harrison4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 21 Year 18585. Place of birth W. Virginia, Marshall County6. Name of Father Burley Lindsey Place of birth W. VirginiaOther information about father Merchant7. Name of Mother Lucinda Rush Place of birth W. VirginiaOther information about mother Died in Kansas City.

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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Don Moon, Jr.
Interviewer
March 17, 1938.

Interview with Mrs. Alice Condict
723 West Harrison, Guthrie, Okla.

Mrs. Condict lives in a bend of the Cottonwood River, just across the street from the lots which her first husband, Stanley Thomas, a Canadian, took on April 22, 1889. He built a three-room house with a full basement on the very bank of the river, and had it almost finished when his wife and son, Asa, arrived from Missouri. This original house still stands, and is in use, but Mrs. Condict says it does not look much like it used to.

"It was painted nice, all yellow trimmed in red and I had a flower garden and roses climbing up the walls. Mr. Thomas took a farm, too, eight miles east from Guthrie. People could make two city lots and one hundred and sixty acres, but he sent the money to file on the claim by another man, and that fellow filed on it for himself. He is dead now, and I won't tell who he was. Tom Potts painted our house. He lived on a claim, and one morning he didn't go to do some painting that he had promised to do, and neighbors found that he had been shot by a man who had stayed all night there and hoped to get the farm.

"The water nearly killed me at first. We bought water from some people who lived in a tent just across the river from

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us. We paid fifteen cents a gallon for it. Before long we had well dug.

"Mr. Thomas picked out this part of town because he thought it was pretty. He liked the river and the trees. He built a saw-mill, and Jake Douglass worked for him. Mrs. Douglass used to bring their first baby over to my house every day. That baby died. My husband and Jake built a big steam-boat and it ran from our place here down the Cottonwood as far as May Park, almost to the mouth of the river. Mr. Thomas named his boat the Charley Mansur, after a good friend, the former Governor of Missouri. Charley sent a silk flag with his name on it to put on the boat.

"We had lots of fun on the river in those days. We had about twenty row-boats for rent, and going boat-riding was the popular thing for the young folks to do. Mr. Thomas also fixed up a bath house in the river here. It had a canvas top on a frame, and he had sand hauled and put in it so it would have a sand bottom. Lots of people went bathing there every evening after work. But when the big flood (1897-April) came along it swept it all away. We also had a pontoon sidewalk across the river right here. It was swept away, too. That is the worst thing about this part of town - the high waters. I have been through eight floods here. It is the only thing I am afraid of.

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There used to be three other houses close to mine, but they are all gone now. My second husband, Harry M. Conduct, built this house after we were married. He was one of the best printers in Oklahoma. We were married in 1918. He died about nine years ago.

One of the best hotels built in early Guthrie was the Cannon Hotel, two blocks south of us. The Cannons are all dead now, I think, except one of the boys used to like to fish off of the pontoon sidewalk, and they were about the same age as my boy Asa. Clyde Hyde fished and played around here for years.

The Cannon Hotel was later the main building for the Deaf and Dumb Institute for the state while it was at Guthrie. Five or six of the cottages built for that institute's use are still standing, but in poor condition. The old hotel is now Park Sanitarium, a hospital for negroes.

My son, Asa, died several years ago after returning safely from the World War. He was the only one of twelve children born to me and Mr. Thomas to grow up.

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All the others died in infancy. A year ago I fell and broke my hip, so now I am practically helpless.

We always had plenty until the Oklahoma State Bank failed about 1922. I had about \$5,000 in it. Now I have my home and an old age pension.