

COX, MATTIE S.

INTERVIEW

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BIOGRAPHY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for OklahomaField Worker's name Ruth Lee GamblinThis report made on (date) July 21, 19371. Name Mrs. Mattie S. Cox.2. Post Office Address Frederick, Oklahoma.3. Residence address (or location) North 6th Street.4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day X Year 1874.5. Place of birth Texas.

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 3.

Ruth Lee Gamblin,  
Interviewer.

I was born in Azle, Texas September 1874. I was twenty-three years of age when I married. We continued to live in Texas until 1900 which was the opening of the Indian Territory.

My husband had a desire to come to a new state as he thought perhaps he could make easy money. So we like every one else, packed two wagons and started for Oklahoma. We went to Lawton and as we could not find a desirable place to camp we came on to Walters.

We lived in a tent for several weeks until we could get enough money ahead to build a house. I had my machine with me so I did sewing for the Indians. We were just about the only white people in that part of the country at that time. Most of the Indians were Comanches. They were wealthy at that time or at least we thought they were, and they paid me good to sew for them. We only had a small amount of furniture. On the place that we lived we had no water, so we walked half mile to a spring after our water. We used dead sticks for timber. This was not a timber country. There was so much wild game at that time until we could not raise

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chickens, however, we raised a small garden. My husband did carpenter work, and he helped build the first homes in Lawton.

In 1902 we moved to Frederick soon after it opened. Those were really wild days. It was easy for my husband to get carpenter work to do as there was a shack going up on each lot. Just as fast as they could get lumber into Frederick they would erect a house. So many people lived in tents. There were no streets, no side-walks, no wells but plenty of saloons.

They organized a school soon after we moved. It was conducted in a tent. Each Sunday the tent was turned over to a different denomination. Just about the only thing we had to look forward to was church.

The farmers began to raise grain on a big scale so my husband became a grain buyer, and he really made good money. He also bought corn.

At that time there were only six stores and just one bank; it was the First National Bank. It was just a little one-room frame building.

We had to buy our water. It was hauled to town in wagons and then delivered just like our ice is now.

There were no telephones then; if anyone had a message

he wanted delivered he would get on a horse and ride down the street, shouting it.

The Indians came over several times on special occasions and also when they would be on a hunting trip.

I like to remember the early days because even though I thought I had a hard time then, it was much better than times are now. We really tried to get the most out of life.