

MOOMEY, CERRELEA INTERVIEW.

#6574

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

Field Worker's name Alene D. McDowell

This report made on (date) June 22, 1937

1. Name Cerelea Moomey
2. Post Office Address Route 1, Box 53, Bartlesville, Oklahoma
3. Residence address (or location) 1511 West First, Bartlesville
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day _____ Year 1842
5. Place of birth Hamilton County, ~~Mississippi~~ Tennessee

6. Name of Father Robert T. Talley Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about father Buried in Tennessee. Union soldier

7. Name of Mother Rachel Harrison-Talley Place of birth Kentucky

Other information about mother granddaughter of Wm. Henry Harrison
President of the United States.

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 8.

Alene D. McDowell
Research Field Worker
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149
June 22, 1937

MY FIFTY-TWO YEARS IN BARTLESVILLE
Given by Mrs. Cerelea Moomey
1511 West First
Bartlesville, Oklahoma

Mrs. Cerelea Talley-Green-Moomey was born in Hamilton County, Tennessee, in November 1842.

Father - Robert Talley was born in Tennessee and died at the age of 72 years in his home state. He served as a Union soldier in the Civil War. He owned a 300 acre plantation and followed agriculture on an extensive scale.

Mother - Rachel Harrison-Talley was born in Kentucky and died in Tennessee at the age of 70 years.

I was married to John Green, son of a Methodist minister of the early '40's. My husband was a farmer and owned a large plantation in Tennessee where we lived until his death. He served in the Civil war as a Union soldier with the 5th. Tennessee Infantry.

After my husband's death I decided to go to Texas and packed up bag and baggage and started on a daring adventure. I had five children and very little money, and did not realize the foolishness of this trip when I made my plans.

I visited my sister at Chattanooga, Tennessee, before starting on the long trip to Texas and my brother-in-law advised me to come to the Indian Territory. I took his advice and in 1885 I came to the new country. We came to Vinita on the train and from Vinita to Bartlesville in a wagon.

We settled on the Melvin Goodhue place, south of Bartlesville at the foot of Circle Mountain, in a one room log house. Mr. Goodhue furnished us 16 cows and told us to pick the best ones from the herd to milk. We fed five of them for the milk and butter. The Indians ^{were} nice to me and helped me in many ways, they furnished us meat, also helped me financially. I pieced quilts, washed and did general housework to clothe my family. I sewed for people and made many shirts by hand for we had no sewing machines then. I worked for Mrs. William Johnstone in the home and also sewed for her.

William Johnstone, George B. Keeler and Nelson Carr helped me in many ways and when

my little girl died, shortly after my arrival here, these good men paid the funeral expenses.

~~When I settled in Bartlesville the town on the north side of Caney river was located on North Delaware avenue. The first real hotel was located where the Washington County Hospital now stands and was run by Frank Morgan. George Keeler later built a home on this location where he lived for many years. William Johnstone's ranch home was located where the Junior-Senior High School now stands at Eighth and Cherokee.~~

The greatest flood in the early days was in 1885 when a cloud burst along the headwaters of the Caney river sent a 25 foot wall of water sweeping in and inundating all the low lands. On the south side of the river the water was knee deep in the Johnstone-Keeler store.

Holding church in the early days was not without its perils. The Delawares, due to their great chief, Journeyoake, were devout Christians. They were in somewhat the ^{same} situation as the Pilgrims in Massachusetts. It was necessary to

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have guards about while services were being held. They were in danger of being attacked by renegade whites and bad Indians.

Frank Bucher started the first banking business in the first brick building, on the Alameda hotel location.

Jake Bartles had established a trading post north of the river in 1877 and the mail was delivered to this point from Coffeyville, Kansas, in the old mail hack. This mail hack is in the museum at the Phillips ranch, southwest of Bartlesville. When Keeler and Johnstone established a store on the south side of the river and the post office was later moved over to the new town, Mr. Bartles decided to move his buildings to a location four miles north and established the town of Dewey. He named the new town for Admiral Dewey, hero of the Spanish-American War.

He moved his store in the winter and owing to the bad roads through the Cansy river bottoms it took six months to accomplish the undertaking. He sold groceries from the store during the entire

removal. This store building is now located on Main street in Dewey, where Highway 75 crosses. The building is of solid walnut and a few years ago, Joe, the only son of the late Jake Bartles, had the building remodeled and now operates the Pioneer Cafe in the old building. Mr. Bartles built the Bartles hotel across the street from the store, where he spent his last days in retirement.

Mr. Bartles was instrumental in building what is now the Santa Fe railroad into Bartlesville, and the first telephone was at the Bartles store on Caney river.

The winter of 1886 I cut pieces, pieced and quilted fifteen quilts. Mr. Keeler ordered fast color material from Kansas City for these quilts. (One of these quilts was on Mrs. Moomey's bed when this interview was taken)

I was working for Mrs. William Johnstone when I met Mr. Moomey, a Union soldier of the 15th Ohio Infantry. Mr. Johnstone, who had been my friend and advisor since I had settled in the community, advised

me to marry him. I was living on Coon Creek at this time and we were married in my home by Revernd Blake. Carrie Overlees made my wedding dress.

Mr. Moomey was a farmer and we bought a farm of 1000 acres, including pasture land, on Coon creek. This place is known as the Shailer place. We built a good four room frame house where we lived for several years. The first year he cleared \$1,000. Stella Bixler worked for me while we lived on this place. She later married William Johnstone, after the death of his wife.

I bought a small tract of land, about one acre, north of Dewey, and leased it to an oil company, who drilled and brought in a good well. It cleared \$150 per month. I then built a home in Dewey.

We bought a lot at Fifth and Johnstone from the Government and built a two story house, where we lived for a number of years. The Young Men's Christian Association is now located on the lot. An Indian man, I do not remember his name, tried to claim our home as his allotment, but could not prove his rights.

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Mr. Moomey built a store building for Bob Bradley and Jim Bryant, on Second street, then the Main street of Bartlesville, where they operated a general merchandise store. They paid him \$15.00 a month rent.

Mrs. Armstrong and Mrs. Overlees, mothers of Mrs. and Mrs. F.M. Overlees, who played an active part in the building of Bartlesville, were very dear friends of mine and have helped me over many rough places with my family when I first came here. Mrs. Armstrong was a Delaware and was the daughter of the great Delaware Chief, Charles Journeysake, who was a missionary among the Indians and early day settlers here. I am not an Indian but I was named for a Cherokee Indian.

President William Henry Harrison was my great grandfather and helped to write the constitution of the United States.

My father and five brothers served during the Civil War. Four of my brothers were on the Union side and one was a Rebel. He had married a southern woman in Arkansas, but against her wishes he joined the Union side. After he was captured the Rebels

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made him join the southern ranks, where he served through the duration of the war. Most of the soldiers were buried at Chattanooga, Tennessee.

I received very little education and can only write my name, enough to sign my pension check of \$40. a month. I attended school in Tennessee and our school house had puncheon floors and seats.

COMMENTS.

Grandma Moomey is 94 years old and has had many difficult experiences in her long life. She is a dear old lady and is loved by every one who knows her. She was delighted to give us her story of her early experiences and appreciates the opportunity to relate these experiences for the future generation.