

DARST, ANNA.

INTERVIEW

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

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DARST, ANNA.

INTERVIEW.

Field Worker's name Mildred B. McFarland

This report made on (date) January 25, 1938

1. Name Anna Darst

2. Post Office Address Guthrie, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) General Delivery.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month January Day 25 Year 1856

5. Place of birth Kingdom of Bavaria, Germany.

6. Name of Father Joseph Engel Place of birth Germany

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Barbara (Lilling) Engel Place of birth Germany

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 _____

An Interview with Anna Darst, Guthrie, Oklahoma.
By - Mildred B. McFarland, Investigator.
January 28, 1938.

I was born in Germany eighty-two years ago. I came to America fifty-four years ago. I arrived in St. Louis, Missouri, October 15, 1883. I was twenty-seven. I secured a job as house maid the next day after arriving in St. Louis. I stayed there for almost two years.

I then went to Nebraska and stayed until February, 1890. About that time I received quite a large sum of money from an estate in Germany.

I was staying with a family in Nebraska by the name of Wyatt. They decided to come to Oklahoma and make their home. Two other families came along. We arrived in Guthrie, February 20, 1890. I filed on a relinquishment fifteen miles south of Guthrie, and the others filed on adjoining claims. The four corners met and we all built a one room log cabin on our corner so we would not be lonesome or frightened. We sent one of the men back to Nebraska to charter a car and ship all of our things to us. As I was the only one who had any money, I had to pay the expenses for the other three families.

We brought horses, cows, hogs and chickens. We also

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brought a limited supply of furniture. What we didn't have we made of logs.

My money was giving out so I secured a job carrying the mail from Edmond to Springvale and on to Guthrie. I posted a \$5.00 bond and had a Government contract for five years. I drove a cart. No matter how cold or hot the weather was the mail had to go.

The first Christmas after I was here I walked three miles to a Christmas tree entertainment. The boys furnished apples and sugar candy. The girls gathered nuts and trimmed the tree with strings of pop corn.

On New Years Day we had a taffy pull and an old time dance.

The Fourth of July there was a big celebration in Guthrie. A parade of old timers was to be had that day. I happened to go to town that day driving my new wagon. They insisted I join the parade displaying the new wagon. That was my first experience in public; I felt so proud up on that wagon, even though I did have on my sunbonnet.

We always managed to squeeze in some good time along with our hardships. I helped to dig the well on my place;

I plowed and did everything the men folks did on their places.

We four neighbors went together and built the First Congregational Church. We used it for a school house until we could build one.

Our first crop burned up and everyone was destitute. I had brought enough flour to last quite a while and I would exchange flour for wild game. There was plenty of wild turkey and deer. We always helped one another.

I lived on my place seven years and then married Mr. Darst. We lived there until 1928, when Mr. Darst died and I moved to Guthrie.