

INDEX CARDS

Greer County
Martha
Living Conditions
Frazier
Kiowa
Poline

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

Field Worker's name Ruth Kerbo
This report made on (date) July 13 1937

1. Name Mr. S. L. Doughty
2. Post Office Address Mangum, Oklahoma
3. Residence address (or location) 303 West Pierce Street
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month May Day 12 Year 1875
5. Place of birth Viola, Arkansas

6. Name of Father Henry C. Doughty Place of birth Tennessee
Other information about father _____
7. Name of Mother Mary C. Brewer Place of birth Tennessee
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 _____.

DOUGHTY, S. L. INTERVIEW.

4962

2

S. L. Doughty of Mangum is a member of a family which has played an important part in the development of old Greer Country.

After a visit to this section in 1888, the family of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Doughty, parents of S. L. Doughty, settled at Martha the following year.

The family consisted of five boys and one girl. I remember the trip from Gordon, Texas, to Martha required over two weeks. Members of the family were happy to arrive at their destination after the long trip in covered wagons.

He filed on a section of land at Martha.

Communities adjacent to Martha were Frazier, which was destroyed in the flood of 1891, and Dot, known later as Blair. E. B. Zinn was the first postmaster at Dot.

We raised wheat generally and after farming for a time my father established the first general merchandise store at Martha.

Settlers for miles around visited the store on Saturdays to secure calico for dresses, domestic for family wearing apparel and molasses for their

DOUGHTY, S. L. INTERVIEW.

4962

3

tables.

I was employed in the store for several years.

In 1909 when the M. K. T. Railroad was built through the community, I organized the Martha State Bank. I was elected president of the bank, a position I still retain. Since 1918 I have been a resident of Mangum. After emigrating to Martha, the boys of our family settled on a section of land and proceeded to plant crops. Each broke forty acres of land.

We never knew what hard times were, there were too many exciting things to do in the new country.

For recreation, boys organized rabbit hunting expeditions. Fish fries were popular.

I remember one creek at Martha teeming with fish and sometimes as many as twenty fish would appear in a school, although the water was only from three to four feet deep.

Cultivation of the land did much to destroy bodies of water in this section because as the land was plowed, soil washed into many creeks, and bodies of water disappeared gradually.

DOUGHTY; S. L. INTERVIEW.

4962

4

I recall breaking many acres of land with teams of oxen. Most of the neighborhood settlers employed oxen for some farming purposes.

Neighbors whom I recall in the Martha community were J. S. Hart, J. W. Starkey, Uncle John Starkey, and J. B. Gee, who was killed later in a dispute with T. B. Turner, another resident of the community.

My wife came to Martha with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Starkey in 1890.

I attended school in a one-room frame building at Martha. Henry Wadkins was the first school teacher.

Only the first few grades were offered at the school, although every pupil took great pride in his penmanship, which appears to have been stressed at every early school.

For several years, settlers at Martha got their mail at Frazier, six miles south of their community. Before the flood of 1891, Frazier consisted of only a drug store and a general merchandise store. J. R. McMahan was owner of the drug store and he was

DOUGHTY, S. L. INTERVIEW.

4962

5

also postmaster.

C. C. Hightower and Peter Holt were also engaged in business there.

There were no saloons at Frazier, although several were opened after the town was rebuilt on the present site of Altus after the flood. The new community was named Altus, which means "higher" in Latin.

After several months, the name of the Altus community was changed to Leger. A group then circulated a petition to again call the town Altus.

I recall riding to Mangum on horseback as well as in a buggy during the 1890s. The only roads connecting Martha and Mangum were old wagon trails.

Martha was named after Martha Medlin, daughter of Reverend T. F. Medlin, early Baptist minister of this section. Miss Medlin later served as the first postmistress of Martha.

Building of the M. K. T. Railway did much to open up this section. Settlers in the vicinity formerly freighted goods and merchandise from Vernon and Quanah, Texas, the trading ports of old Greer

DOUGHTY, S. L. INTERVIEW.

4962

6

County. Building of the line saw the end of wagon freight lines in the community.

When time lagged on holidays the boys of Martha would enjoy an antelope hunt. Spurring our horses, we would gallop headlong toward the startled creatures while another member of the group would try to head-off the herd. We never killed the antelopes, but merely enjoyed trying to overtake them.

I recall the fatal shooting of Poline, Kiowa sub-chief, as one of the worst Indian scares in the history of this section.

The incident occurred in 1891 near the present site of Warren. A band of Kiowas rode up to a settler's homestead and demanded provisions for themselves and their mounts.

The settlers were unable to understand their wishes and concluded that they had been drinking. The Indians repeated their commands and the leader, Poline, made a movement as though to draw his Winchester rifle from his saddle holster. "Don't draw that gun on me." the settler warned. "Me no Scared," the Indian leader answered. The homesteader fired,

DOUGHTY, S. L. INTERVIEW.

4962

7

and Poline tumbled from his saddle. For two weeks, thereafter, the countryside was in a state of siege since Indian bands were reported out for vengeance.