

HARRIS, MARGARET ANNA.

INTERVIEW Q

10849

262

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

263

#10249

HARRIS, MARGARET ANNA.

INTERVIEW.

Field Worker's name Ruby Wolfenbarger

This report made on (date) March 18, 1938

1. Name Mrs. Margaret Anna Harris

2. Post Office Address Sentinel, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Sentinel.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 20 Year 1866

5. Place of birth Titus County, Texas.

6. Name of Father J. D. Smith Place of birth Alabama

Other information about father Farmer

7. Name of Mother Sara A Stubbs Place of birth Georgia

Other information about mother Housewife

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 Margaret Anna Harris, Sentinel.
By - Ruby Welfenbarger, Investigator.
March 18, 1938.

I was born in Titus County, Texas, August 20, 1866. My father, J. D. Smith, was a soldier in the Civil War. He served through the four years. He married my mother just a few days after the war. I married at a very early age. My husband was very delicate and the doctor said that he would have to move to a higher climate, so we decided to come up here, also we wanted a home for our children.

We came up here in 1900. We sold our stock but brought our furniture with us. When we landed here we thought that this was the grandest place in the world. It was a rolling prairie and we came from a timbered country, that is why we liked the country so well. The wild game was just about all gone except for a few coyotes and prairie chickens. We located four miles north and three miles west of Hobart. We rented one hundred and sixty acres of good fertile farming land.

Our home was a small three room frame house. Our place was very well improved for that day, we had a small barn, the land was fenced. We had a large orchard with

many varieties of fruit including peaches, apples, pears, cherries and all kinds of berries. Our drinking water was a problem at that time. The water around Hobart was very scarce and not very good. It was full of typhoid fever germs.

Cotton and wheat were our principal crops. However, we planted corn, oats, kaffir and maize. We bought several horses and cows. We used horses to do all our farming with. The country around Hobart was well settled at that time; there were about one or two settlers on every section line and almost all the land was settled except the school lands.

I made extra money nursing after we came up here. I have been a practical nurse since I was fourteen years old. There was much sickness in the early days. The settlers had what the doctors called "grippe". Today we call this the "flu".

I sent my children to school at "Pleasant Ridge" a small country school house near our place. We also had our church. We had other entertainments here. We had many ice cream socials and box suppers in the early days. We also had lots of fruit suppers, the girls brought the cakes and pies and the boys brought fruits.

We did most of our trading at Hobart, which at that time was a very prosperous little city. It had two railroads, the Rock Island and Frisco.

I am the mother of eleven children; most of them were born in Oklahoma and have farms around here now. I have always been a very healthy woman. I have worked hard since I was a small child. My mother lived to be ninety-eight years old and my father was eighty-six.