

DODD, W. F. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW

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

DODD, W. F. (MRS.)      **INTERVIEW.**

#13630

Field Worker's name Lula AustinReport made on (date) April 18, 1938Name Mrs. W. F. DoddPost Office Address Caddo, Oklahoma.Residence address (or location) Buffalo Street.DATE OF BIRTH: Month May Day 18 Year 1871Place of birth Texas.Name of Father Dr. William W. Davis Place of birth TexasOther information about father Doctor among Indians in '70Name of Mother Julia McCray Place of birth Texas.

Other information about mother \_\_\_\_\_

Short or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and  
-- of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects  
questions. Continue on blank sheets, if necessary and attach firmly to  
form. Number of sheets attached \_\_\_\_\_.

An Interview with Mrs. W. F. Dodd, Caddo, Oklahoma.

By Lula Austin - Investigator.

April 18, 1938.

My husband and I left Savoy, Texas, May 15, 1895, in a covered wagon driving a team of mules. We spent the first night near Carpenters Bluff with a family by the name of Wells. It turned cold and hailed that night. The next morning we traveled on toward Caddo and the grass was so high that it covered the mules' backs. It took us two days to make the trip.

When we arrived in Caddo we rented land from Ben Hampton and lived on his place four months, then moved to town and rented the Grayson home. We operated a little jewelry store and repaired clocks. The Indians were our main customers. When they received a payment they always bought some jewelry. We never tried to swindle them.

Caddo people in early days were great church workers. Seven of us had the pastor from Savoy come and receive us into the Methodist Church. We worked hard to raise money for our church, gave suppers and parties. At our parties we played - Snap, Skip to my Lu and Old Brass Wagon.

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A crowd of us went ghost hunting to old Fort Washita. We had been sitting around the campfire when I decided to retire. I went in the house and after letting my hair down, went back out, throwing my hands up as I approached my husband who was on a pallet in the yard. He looked up and thinking I was the ghost, grabbed for his gun, but luckily it hung in the scabbard and I called him by name asking him not to shoot. We never went ghost hunting again.

For entertainment we would go on fish fries, camping out all night. Later we organized our music club and civic club and working together we built a lovely chapel in the cemetery.

When the Indians came to town to shop they brought their blankets and would spread them out in front of the stores and lie down to rest so that in passing you would have to step over or between them.

At Thanksgiving and Christmas, we had a big dinner each day for a week, everybody bringing food. We kept this practice up for a long time.

Mrs. Ed Walters (Bell Hancock) lived across the

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street from me when I first moved to Caddo. It was two weeks before she called on me and when she came she said, "You know, we always prove people before we call".

My father practiced medicine here in 1870. The Indians would stay around the place and say they were going to scalp us. When Father was away Mother would close the doors and pile furniture against them. One time Father sent an Indian for medicine. He called and knocked on the door but Mother would not let him in; then he pushed a note under the door that Father had written telling Mother to send medicine by this Indian who kept saying, 'Medicine Man'.

In the Fall during a snowstorm Mother went looking for the cows and when quite a distance from the house she looked up and saw about a dozen Indians coming. She fell down and hid herself in the snow until they passed.

Calvin Robinson was interpreter for my father who was doctor for many of the prominent families when he died. Over \$5,000 was booked and never collected.

I have a book in which my mother when a girl wrote all the war songs in 1861. They are written in ink and are in

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good condition. I also have my McGuffey's 6th Reader and  
Clark's Higher Arithmetic.