

EWY, MARY (BRUBACHER)

INTERVIEW

#8287

458

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

Field Worker's name Ida A. Merwin

This report made on (date) August 20, 1937 1937

1. Name Mary Brubacher Ewy

2. Post Office Address Route 5, Perry, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 3 Mi. S. and 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ Mi. E. of Perry

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month October Day 17 Year 1867

5. Place of birth Austria

6. Name of Father Phillip Brubacher Place of birth Austria

Other information about father Buried in Austria

7. Name of Mother Kathrine R. Brubacher Place of birth Austria

Other information about mother Came to U.S. in 1880

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

Ida A. Merwin
Interviewer
August 20, 1937

Interview with
Mary (Brubacher) Ewy
Perry, Oklahoma.

In the spring of 1893, my husband and I, and our family, with three other families, came to Oklahoma, locating near Orlando, to await the opening of the Cherokee strip. This trip was made with covered wagons and teams. We followed the old Payne Trail to a place near Stillwater then went to our camping spot near Orlando.

We brought with us eight milk cows and four horses.

At the place where we camped and waited was a small shack and three of the families stayed there until the opening, making it very crowded; we had trundle beds and we would push them under the large bed in the day time to make more room.

On the day of the run, I watched the start of the race from a point near Orlando; my husband made the race on horseback, staking his claim in Walnut Township, Noble County.

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Our first house on this claim was built that fall and was a ten by twelve box house, not finished on the inside. We lived in this until 1905, when we built a frame house which burned down later.

Our first crops were kaffir corn and sorghum. The sorghum crop we had made into molasses, giving a share for the making. We also ground corn, making corn meal for our own use; this with what we raised and produced from our cows made our living.

Church services for the neighborhood were held at our house. Our church was of the Mennonite denomination.

A school district was organized shortly after the opening of the Strip and the school was conducted in a small shack; later, a better building was built.