

MOORE, WILLIAM N. (MRS.) INTERVIEW 7365

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

MOORE, WILLIAM N. (MRS.) INTERVIEW. #7365.

Field Worker's name Jerome M. Emmons,

This report made on (date) August 24, 193 7

1. Name Mrs. William N. Moore,
2. Post Office Address Box 92, Morris, Oklahoma.
3. Residence address (or location) 3½ miles south of Morris on the Half Moon Ranch.
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month June Day 10 Year 1885.
5. Place of birth Kansas.

6. Name of Father J. K. Matlock Place of birth Indiana.
7. Name of Mother Lydia Hamilton Place of birth Indiana.

Other information about mother White.

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 Four.

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Jerome M. Emmons, Interviewer.
August 24, 1937.

Interview with Mrs. William N. Moore,
Box 92, Morris, Oklahoma.

I was born in Kansas but my parents took me to Indiana when a child where we lived until I was sixteen. We then moved to Indian Territory and lived a short ways west of my present home.

Marriage.

I married William Moore, a Creek Indian, in this very house when I was twenty. I have lived here since, except for a while during the World War when we lived in Okmulgee.

Ranches.

My half brother ran this place until we took it over. We rented one hundred acres of land and pastured cattle for March Brown. We raised a little corn and cotton. We had horses that did not know what corn was, in fact, they would not eat it. We pastured some cattle for years and at one time my husband helped handle 7000 head for Mr. Brown.

Todd's Ranch was southwest of Morris. Callahan had a ranch east of this ranch. Captain Gentry had a ranch

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near Checotah and La Blanche had one near Hitchita.

Trading.

We traded at Muskogee and Okmulgee. All the lumber for this house, which was built in 1896, was hauled from Muskogee.

Game.

When my family moved here the deer was about gone. There were still a few turkeys and coyotes left.

Burial Grounds.

There is a private burial ground, used by my husband's people, one mile west of Cole Corner and a little north. This is now Willie Yardy's place. There are about fifteen graves there. My husband's father, his two wives and several of my husband's brothers are there.

There are two graves on Lydia Hightower's allotment on the Okmulgee-Morris Highway.

Oil.

In 1907 oil was discovered near Morris. The first well was drilled north of here on a Swede's place. He was offered more money for his land than he had ever

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thought of having, probably. He started in to town to fix up the papers when a man offered his wife more and she started running after his wagon to tell him about the better offer. I do not know if he sold to the first man or not but they sold and went back to Missouri.

After oil was discovered here, there was a line walker killed by cattle near here.

Open Range.

I have seen grass so tall here that you could ride through it on a horse and it would be over your head in places. When they made hay on some farms they would cut until the frost hit. This was certainly fine land for cattle ranches.

The place we live on now has been in the same family for three generations. It was owned by my father-in-law, my husband and now by my sons.

Councilmen.

My husband and his father were both members of the Creek Indian Council representing the Cussetah Town. My husband was a member of both houses at different times.

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Violence.

Suzanne Barnett, a Creek Indian woman of near Wildcat, was courted by an Indian man and, I guess, she turned him down for he shot her and threw her body into a well at her home.

Mrs. Barnett had been married before to Jim Sapulpa, a Creek Indian.

At Mrs. Barnett's death, her young daughter was brought here by John R. Moore, my father-in-law, and stayed here one summer. She went away to school and was later adopted by Miss Alice Robertson. This young woman married Mr. Strouvelle of Tulsa, an oil man and millionaire.

Post Office.

There was a post office and store at a place east of here spelled Narduck and pronounced Nordike when I first moved here.