

MUSSEN, EMILY

INTERVIEW

#4395

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

Field Worker's name Pearl E. Parker

This report made on (date) June 9, 1937

1. Name Emily Mussen

2. Post Office Address Cherokee, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 220 West 5th.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 15 Year 1849

5. Place of birth Ohio

6. Name of Father William Dowell Place of birth Ohio

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Caroline Warner Place of birth Connecticut

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 2.

Pearl E. Parker,
Field Worker
June 9, 1937.

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Interview with Emily Mussen,
220 West 5th Cherokee, Oklahoma.
Born March 15, 1849.
Father-William Dowell.
Mother-Caroline Warner.

I was born in the state of Ohio, in 1868, but when I was eighteen, I left Ohio with my parents and came to Kiowa, Kansas, on September 1, 1892, I filed on a claim at the opening of the strip. My father, Wm. Dowell, waited for the bugle call, then he also staked off his claim. We then built our log cabin, one large room about sixteen or eighteen feet square, with an old fashioned fire place. We did most of our cooking on the fire place. Our beds were trundle beds, which were made out of logs and our fuel was log heaps which we rolled up in bunches to burn. Our meat was composed mostly of venison, veal, wild turkey, and pheasant. Our lamps were made of lard and tallow.

We drove oxen to a wagon and our wearing apparel was made on the spinning wheel. My parents never allowed me to spin more than forty knots per day—that was the average for my age.

I also studied music, and I still have in my possession the book from which I studied. My son, Billie Dowell, of Kiowa, Kansas, has a rifle which is fifty years old.

I was eighty-eight years old March 15, 1937. I am strong and healthy and able to do all of my house work, and I also made a small garden this year.