

OSTERMAN, LINDA A.

1941-1942

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

Field Worker's name Jennie Selfridge

This report made on (date) June 25 1937

1. Name Leland A. Mosteller

2. Post Office Address _____

3. Residence address (or location) 711 A Street North west

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month October Day 26 Year 1958

5. Place of birth Georgia

6. Name of Father D. J. Mosteller Place of birth North Carolina

Other information about father 1/2 German

7. Name of Mother Almina Floyd Place of birth South Carolina

Other information about mother _____

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for instructions and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and refer firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 4

My family moved from Georgia when I was eleven years old, and settled in Rock Wall County, Texas. After staying at this locati n for four years they decided to move to Indian Territory. So on October 28, 1873, at three o'clock in the afternoon we crossed Red River and came into the territory.

We first settled on the Robert Love farm in Pickens County, Chickasaw Nation. We were not far from Oil Springs. People came from every where to drink water at these springs. Robert Love usually charged at the rates of one dollar a month per person for the water. If a person had consumption and drank the oil water he or she would not live over a month; therefore Robert Love would not let people with consumption drink the water if he could keep them from it. The water was very good for rheumatism.

I have always farmed. When we first settled in the Territory we leased land from the Indians. Land was usually leased from eight to ten years at a time. We stayed around Oil Springs for a while, then moved to Addington's Bend on Red River. Addington's Bend was named from the Addington's sons, Zack, Jarrett, Pres, and Columbus. We had a peaceful country in those days. According to Robert Love the Comanches had made their last raid just a few years before this time.

MOSSELLER, LELAND A.

INTERVIEW.

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They came across what is now Love County, and went down into Addington's Bend. The greatest damage they did was stealing horses.

I only visited the Overton (Sobe) Love home one time. At that time Sobe Love controlled all of Love's Valley.

We lived in Addington's Bend several years, then moved east of the John Criner home southwest of Ardmore.

There was a large spring near our home, although it did not afford water all the year like the big Criner spring did.

The first location of the Criner school was near our house. There were also two other subscription schools in the settlement. They were Crinerville which was located near the present Crinerville cemetery, and the John Vestal school which was located on Camp Brown Creek. All three of these buildings were frame structures.

We sold cotton and corn at Benison, Gainesville and Whitesboro. People would go to these markets and be gone for days at a time, and never lock their homes. The Addington home is the only one I remember that had a lock.

I saw the Lee brothers one time before they were killed. It had been raining, we could not work, and there was a big round-up being held west of the present city of Ardmore, so we

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went. This round-up was held at a location known as Turkey Grove by the cowboys. They always went there to cut cattle. At this particular round-up there were one hundred and fifty cowboys and about twenty five thousand head of cattle in the herd. The Lee brothers sent word that they were coming over to cut the herd. They came but made no attempt to molest the cattle.

After the Lee boys killed the Roff brothers, there was a reward of five thousand dollars posted for them dead or alive. This reward was offered by the Roff family. I have never learned for sure whether or not Heck Thomas killed the Lee boys, although I do know that he helped carry the bodies to Gaineville and collected the reward after they were killed.

I came to Ardmore in 1899 and began farming. I put in four and three-fourths acres of grapes. The first fifteen years I was here I harvested thirteen crops of grapes. My grapes made me, on an average, four hundred and seventy-five dollars a year. I was very careful in the cultivation of them and read all of the literature I could find on grape culture. Wiley Campbell's father lived at the end of what is now Caddo or A street northwest and farmed all of the land in that part of town. Wiley still lives in the south part of Ardmore.

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My grandfather was a full blood German and my father learned all about wine making from him. One season father made sixty one whiskey barrels full of wine. He would put one gallon of wine into a gallon of water, add sugar and make grape cider. Before he got his wine all sold, a judge in the eastern district ruled that it was unlawful to sell wine. Father went to W. B. Johnson, United States Attorney, and told him that he had quit selling wine until there was a final decision made on it. Johnson advised him not to give any man a drink. Father then went and talked to United States Marshal Hammer. Hammer told him not to sell any more wine. When the ruling came that it was unlawful to sell wine father had thirty one barrels left. Others who had been selling wine had their stock poured out by the marshals. Buck Garrett came up with one of the Ledbetters to lock our cellar. They looked the stock over and did not pour it out. Ledbetter took a siphon hose and drew out a quart of the wine to carry home to his mother who was ill. They locked the cellar. In a few days father went down and asked W. B. Johnson for the key so that he could air the cellar. Johnson sent him to Hammer. Hammer told him he would let him have the key providing he would get an order from Johnson. Johnson gave him the order, and he got the key back.

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Finally he got a permit to ship the wine out of the Territory.

He got a bill of lading, shipped the wine to Gainesville and sold it. Johnson afterward told father that he did not destroy the wine, because so many people came to him complaining because father would not sell to them. Johnson said father did his best not to violate the law, and for that reason it would not have been right to destroy his wine.