

LYNCH, WILLIAM

INTERVIEW

#7354

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

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INTERVIEW

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Field Worker's name Mary D. Derward

This report made on (date) August 24 1937

1. Name William Lynch

2. Post Office Address Tulsa, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 1127 South Gary Avenue

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year 1870

5. Place of birth Maysville, Arkansas

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

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 5.

Mary D. Derward, Field Worker
Indian-Pioneer History S-149
August 24, 1937

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WILLIAM LYNCH
A biographic sketch
From a personal interview with the subject
(1127 South Gary Ave., Tulsa, Okla.)

William Lynch migrated from Maysville, Benton County, Arkansas, to Indian Territory in 1891 at the age of twenty-one. He made the run into the Cheyenne-Arapaho land opening, starting from Kingfisher and making the race merely for fun without any intention of securing a claim. However he and a friend stopped on a claim and held it until a man who did want it offered them a hundred and fifty dollars for possession.

ALLOTMENTS

~~The Shawnees and Delawares lived among the Cherokees~~
and received allotments in that Nation. They received their allotments first and were given the cream of the land.

In making allotments the land was first surveyed, then appraised, ~~the appraised value ranging from fifty cents per~~
acre to \$6.50 per acre. Each person on the rolls was given the equivalent of \$320.00 and in case the land allotted did not quite reach that value the balance was made up in cash.

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CEREMONIAL GROUNDS

Shawnees had ceremonial grounds east of the town of Sperry, probably one mile east along Bird Creek. The Delawares usually joined the Shawnees in their stomp dances. They would put on their war paint and fur headdress with horns and feathers and ride through the neighborhood scaring all the children.

TRADING WITH INDIANS

To trade with the Cherokees in the Cherokee Nation it was necessary, unless one was a Cherokee, to pay a license fee before one could transact business. That fact accounts for the site of the earliest settlement in Tulsa. It had been intended to establish the first depot and settlement at the point where Lewis Avenue now crosses the Frisco railroad because that was high ground. However it was in the Cherokee Nation where it would have been necessary to pay a stiff license fee, so the depot and trading posts were built in the Creek Nation, on the site of the present Union depot.

MRS. WILLIAM LYNCH

Fannie Hefflefinger Lynch, daughter of Pace Hefflefinger and Elizabeth Cochran Hefflefinger, was born on a farm six miles southeast of Winita in 1876. When she was about three or four the family left Winita and came to Collinsville. Here her father settled for a while and discovered the coal mines at Collinsville. In 1882 the Hefflefingers came to what is now Dawson where the father again discovered coal mines. At that time the locality was known as Coal Creek but there was practically no settlement until about 1892 or 1893, the postoffice coming about a year later, when the name was changed to Dawson.

The immigrant trail into Texas led past the Hefflefinger home at Coal Creek and Mrs. Lynch recalls the great wagon trains moving past, extending as far as she could see in either direction.

MEDICINE

Marsaparilla steeped into a tea was used to remedy chills. Cherry bark made into tea and combined with quinine was used for a general tonic.

Conjuring was practiced even as recently as Mrs. Lynch's childhood. She recalls that her brother was once bitten by a copperhead snake and when the usual home remedies failed to reduce the swelling the family called in George Mills known as a conjuring doctor. He came, muttered a few words in Cherokee, and left. The swelling did not seem to yield immediately so they ran after him to call him back. He however would not return, saying, "He'll be all right," and sure enough by the time they reached the house again the swelling had begun to recede and the boy got all right.

PAYMENTS

In 1894 payments for the Cherokee Strip were received by the Cherokees, each payment amounting to about 225.00. Prior to that there had been small payments at irregular intervals called "bread money."

Jess Cochran, brother of Mrs. Lynch's mother, was at one time sheriff of Coe-Wee-Scoe-wee district, served on the Cherokee council, and was a delegate to Washington, D.C., in regard to Cherokee affairs.

ALLOTMENTS

Mrs. Lynch's allotment was a little southeast of the present Dawson, her father's directly south of Dawson.

AGRICULTURAL FAIRS

Mrs. Lynch recalls the early fairs at Vinita. There were exhibits of farm produce, fancy work, and live stock as well as side shows and horse racing for entertainment. A friend of Mrs. Lynch rode in a horse race, winning a red side-saddle as a prize.