

MORROW, SARAH

INTERVIEW

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

Field Worker's name Alene D. McDowell

This report made on (date) July 12, 1937 (October 25, 1937)

1. Name Mrs. Sarah Morrow
2. Post Office Address 111 S. Seminole, Bartlesville, Oklahoma
3. Residence address (or location) 111 S. Seminole, Bartlesville
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month May Day 8 Year 1852
5. Place of birth Schuyler County, Missouri

6. Name of Father Daniel C. Johnston Place of birth Kentucky
Other information about father Buried in Missouri
7. Name of Mother Nettie McGlothorn-Johnston Place of birth Kentucky
Other information about mother Buried in Missouri

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 4.

Alene D. McDowell
Research Field Worker
Washington County
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149
July 12, 1937

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WEAVING of the EARLY DAYS.
Given by Mrs. Sarah Morrow
111 South Seminole
Bartlesville, Oklahoma

Mrs. Sarah Johnston-Morrow was born May 8, 1852, in Schuyler County, Missouri.

Father - Daniel C. Johnston was born in Kentucky, died at the age of 73 years and is buried in Missouri.

Mother - Nettie McGlothern-Johnston was born in Kentucky and died at the age of 58 years and is buried in Missouri.

My first trip to the Indian Territory was brief and I will only mention it because it was a sad trip for us. We lived in Oklahoma City for three months and while at this place we buried our eight year old daughter. At that time we were so discouraged we returned to Missouri. We later pioneered to the Indian Territory again.

December 29, 1889 we removed to the Indian Territory and settled in Bartlesville. That was a hard winter for us, for the country was strange and conveniences few.

My husband was ~~feeding~~ cattle in the Osage and was away from home most of the time. We had a large family so I looked around for a way in which I might help with the expenses.

My mother was a weaver and I had helped her when I was a child and until I was married. I had become a good weaver and weaving was in demand in the new country. There was a lady here who wove for 10¢ a yard and charged extra for putting the work in the loom. I could see there was money to be made in this work and decided if I could secure a loom I would try my luck.

This lady knew I could weave and was suspicious of me. Mr. Slade, a carpenter who lived near me, was handy about making furniture and small articles. One day I ask^{ed} him if he could make a loom and he said he could if he had a pattern. I made him a pattern of corn stocks about 6 inches square and he decided if he had the dimensions he could take the pattern and build one. He knew this lady and made her a visit in regard to some work she had for him. While he was there he became interested in the weaving and while

she was out of the room for a few minutes, ~~he~~ took the dimensions of the loom. I bought the lumber from the Overlees Lumber yard and he built the loom for me, and ordered the slay from Kansas City.

I told some of my friends of my plans and ask^{ed} them about their weaving, this soon advertised for me and I had more than I could do. I did not charge for setting up the work as the other lady did and did my work at the same price. I was making a good income when I was stricken with rheumatism and Dr. Bruce, our family physician, told me I would have to give up weaving. This was quite a blow and at first I would not listen to his warning and continued my work, until Dr. Bruce who was a rough spoken man, told me if I did not stop work, he would take the loom out in the yard and chop it into fire wood.

My son, Howard, had helped with the work and had learned to weave. He decided with my supervision he could do the work, so he raised the price to 15¢ per yard and still had more than he could do.

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I had bought a lot at 724 Shawnee in Bartlesville, mortgaged it to the Overlees Lumber Company for lumber to build a house. After this lot was paid for, I bought another and in the same way improved it. With Howard's help we built a home for each of the children.

We all worked and soon had our homes and enough income to live comfortable. I now live on one of the homes we bought in the early days, at 111 South Seminole. While I have not acquired a fortune of the worldly goods, I have enough to live comfortable my remaining years. My husband passed on two years ago and my daughter makes her home with me.