

INDEX CARDS:

Opening-Cherokee Strip  
Living Conditions

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

89

Field Worker's name Ida A. MarvinThis report made on (date) July 21 19371. Name Pearl (Harlow) Hartung.2. Post Office Address Route 2, Morrison, Oklahoma3. Residence address (or location) 2 1/2 miles E.-1 1/2 S. of Morrison, Okla.4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year 18845. Place of birth in Clair County, Illinois6. Name of Father Samuel T. Harlow Place of birth Illinois

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother Rachel (Bodvaton) Harlow Place of birth Missouri

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 3.

Ida A. Merwin  
Field Worker

90

Interview with Mrs. Pearl Harlow Hartung.

Pearl Harlow Hartung, daughter of Samuel T. and Rachel Boydston <sup>Harlow</sup>, was born in Sinclair County, Illinois, in 1884. Her parents moved to Missouri when she was a small child, later locating in Oklahoma.

Mrs. Hartung states:

When I was nine years old my father went to old Oklahoma to enter the race at the opening of the Cherokee Strip. In September, 1893, he entered the race, starting on the south line near Stillwater. He staked a claim about three and a half miles south of where the town of Billings is now located. After filing he returned to Missouri and in the Spring of 1894, he moved the family, which consisted of a wife and five children.

We made the move in covered wagons, bringing very little only what we must have to get along. We lived in the wagons after arriving at the claim until father could build a sod house, and we lived in this for ten years, when he bought some small houses and out of them built a four-room house.

-2-

The first three years were very hard to go through. The land had to be broken from the sod and the crops were not very good. Father went to old Oklahoma and worked with a threshing crew in the summertime to earn money to support the family, while Mother and we children did the work on the claim. After three years my brothers were old enough to work out and Father stayed at the home.

We did not raise corn for market for what we raised we needed for feed; but we had some wheat to sell which only brought us about thirty-five cents a bushel. The articles we needed to buy were not very expensive and we raised most of our living.

Father died in 1912 and is buried in the Billings cemetery. After his death Mother sold the farm and moved to Perry, Oklahoma, where she lived until her death.

---

At one time when I was about sixteen years old, Mother was away and left us in charge of the home. There was a gypsy camp about one-half mile from our home, and one of these women came to the house, begging

-3-

She saw some biscuits on the table which she wanted. I had a fear of her doing us harm if I refused her, so I let her have them. Then she wanted a chicken, and I tried to tell her I must wait for Mother to come to let her have one but she took advantage of me and caught one and carried it away.

On another occasion a man appeared at the house and asked for something to eat. My brother George, being the only one there, gave him a loaf of home-made bread. He cut it in two handing back one-half of it, and at the same time handed Brother a dollar. We often wondered if he was an outlaw hiding in that country.