

NAVE, MARY ELIZABETH.

INTERVIEW

8797

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

NAVE, MARY ELIZABETH. INTERVIEW

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Field Worker's name Mildred B. McFarland,

This report made on (date) October 1, 1937 1937

1. Name Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Nave,

2. Post Office Address Edmond, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 527 W 1st,

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 24. Year 1862

5. Place of birth Highland, Kansas

6. Name of Father Pleasant Johnson Place of birth Tazewell,  
Tennessee

Other information about father May 3, 1835

7. Name of Mother Cora Kirk Johnson Place of birth Tazewell,  
Tennessee

Other information about mother January 9, 1830

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 \_\_\_\_\_.

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Field Worker, Mildred B. McFarland,  
October 1, 1937.

Interview with Mary Elizabeth Nave,  
Edmond, Oklahoma.

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I lived with my husband and little girl on a farm near Maysville, Missouri, until 1889. In 1890, just one year after the opening of Oklahoma, came here with a wagon train. There were five families and five covered wagons in our group. We were three weeks on the way. We had quite a lot of fun camping on the way, but almost froze to death, as it was in the month of December.

We left the wagon train at a post office called Mathason, no longer in existence.

We bought a relinquishment on a claim ten miles west and three miles north of Edmond. There were two small one-room adobe houses on the place. They were just a few feet apart so we used one for a bedroom and the other one for a kitchen. There was no furniture so we had to cut down trees and split them to

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make what we needed. We made our bed of three-inch poles for posts and side railings. We nailed small poles on for slats. Our mattress was made of straw. Our table was made of split logs and we used boxes for chairs. We made shelves across the corner of the room for our supplies and dishes. We had brought a small camp stove with us. The floors were hard packed dirt. When it rained the roof leaked so badly the floors would become muddy, and it took almost a week for them to dry out and pack down again. The rattlesnakes and centipedes were so thick that they would often drop to the floor from the ceiling.

We lived almost eight months on turnips and corn bread. We couldn't afford to buy coffee so we drank the hot broth off the turnips. My husband gathered corn for a man about ten miles from us. He took his pay in corn. We had part of it ground into cornmeal for bread. Our neighbors gave us about fifteen bushels of turnips and that and corn bread was our main food until our crops were ready to harvest.

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There was a clear, cold spring on our place and we used that for about five years. Our house at that time was about in the center of the one hundred and sixty acres. We built a one-room frame house on the eastern boundary line and then had a well dug. About three-quarters of a mile southeast of us was a post office. Mr. Billie Whistles lived there. The mail was delivered to him from Edmond twice a week. All the neighbors went there on the specified days for their mail.

In 1893 my father came from Nebraska to live with us. He died in 1902 and is buried at Twin Mounds Cemetery, five and one-half miles northeast of Mounds, Oklahoma.

There were several buffalo wallows on our place. The Old Chisholm Trail was just west of us. We traveled over it quite a lot. It was very wide with deep ruts made by wagons. Several years after we built our new house, a post office was erected two and one-half miles north of us. It was called Lockridge. It is not used any more and I don't know whether the building still stands or not.

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I made all my own carpets and rugs. One winter my husband was not well and he was home quite a lot. I had quite a few orders for rag carpets. That winter he and I wove seventeen hundred yards of carpet, for which we received ten cents a yard.

I made and sold butter and sold eggs to keep us in flour.

Our first crop was cotton and oats. The fourth year we didn't raise anything. There was a terrible drouth the t year. I went out in the fields with my husband and plowed right along with him. We worked awfully hard, but were very happy working together. When my little girl was five she picked twenty-five pounds of cotton a day. We paid her for it and with her first money she bought a little pair of red shoes.

That year I had my first new dress in several years. It took fourteen yards for one dress. The skirt was very full and long. It had mutton leg sleeves, a wasp waist and high tight neck.

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When we wanted to go somewhere we hitched two mules to the farm wagon. We always put our bed in the wagon to sleep on for it took two days or more to get anywhere.

There was a small creek on our place with plenty of fish. It was called "Dry Creek." There was a large hole that always stayed full <sup>of water</sup> and was about four feet deep. The bottom was solid rock, and it was always clear. Churches of all denominations would use it for baptizing.

In the early part of 1908, we moved to Edmond and bought the ground where I now live. I sold the farm soon afterwards.

Mr. Nave died in 1917.