

Form A-(S-149)

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IVIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pione of History Project for Oklahoma

neeley, rachel.	INTERVIEW. 9013
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Field Worker's name Ina B. Lankfor	rđ
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This report made on (date)Octob	er 27 193 7
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1. Name Rachel Neeley	
2. Post Office Address Cordell, Oklahoma	
3. Residence address (or location	) East Hill Addition
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month No vember	Day 10 Year 1881
5. Place of birth Archer County, Texas	
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6. Name of Father Bill Neeley	Place of birth Ft. Smith,
Other information about father	r Farmer
7/ Name of Mother Margaret White	Place of birth Missouri
ther information about mother	r Housewife
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	

INTERVIEW.

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Interview with Rachel Neeley, East Hill Addition, Cordell, Oklahema.

We came from Wichita County, Texas, October, 1889. Me brought two wagons loaded with household furniture and were on the road five days. Settled on a farm, one mile west and a half south of Cordell near Center Point School.

whe lived in a sod house; our chicken house was also of sod and a crib was made of poles.

The first year my father and we children went to Duncan to pick cotton. The second year was 1890, we made a fair crop of cotton, cane and corn. Markets were at Duncan, Indian Territory, and Vernon, Texas. We sold our cotton for 5 and 9 cents per pound.

It was very cold in the minter time, and we milked nine cows and took care of them besides the horses and hogs.

In 1891, my father went to Vernon, Texas, to work in the harvest. He brought our clothes, food and materials back with him. Our dresses were gingham and weavy snirting.

March 4, 1899, the biggest prairie fire and sand storm came. .e plowed around our augout, chicken house, crib and feed stacks.

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After I was married, we lived one mile and a half west of Cordell. My husband worked at the gin. I took care of the first crop we made. My husband hired a man to break the son and mile he was doing this I sharpened a stick, punched holes in the ground and dropped the cotton seed into the holes and stepped on it to cover the seed. I ould tie my baby on the bed and leave her for two hours at a time and never see hir while I was working in the field.

Our hog pens were dug into the banks of the creek and slats put in the front of them and I carried water for eleven head of hogs every morning and night.

We would dig a hole in the ground put poles in the hole, drop our turnips, beets and potatoes in the hole, cover with straw then with sod. We put beans and okra on a string, put our plums in a keg and weighted the top. We canned berries in bottles and sealed the bottles with sealing wax. We perched wheat for coffee, our corn bread and cereal were made out of kaffir corn. We would get 5 cents a dozen for eggs and 5 cents a pound for butter.

one candy breaking also to big dialogue. Bugford and

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NEELEY, RACHEL.

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Center Point schools were our meeting place for entertainment.

Our beds consisted of poles and slats and the ticks were stretched over the slats with no mattress nor sheets. My first baby was born on this kind of bed.

The first move we made was done on horse-back. After our move my husband swapped my gun for two bedsteads, three comforts, four chairs, a rocking chair, a small cook store and a straw tick, then I traded my saddle for a bushel of sweet potatoes and a rooster.

a store

H. D. Young had/one and a half miles east of new Cordell. The groceries, drygoods and post office were all in the same building. Fildie Smith ran the post office. This new Cordell was all sage grass, rabbits, quails, prairie chickens and I saw two mountain lions.

We had lots of skunks, snakes, centipedes and fleas.

The fleas were called Indian fleas and the skunks were called "stim" skunks.

The Indians were nice and kind, excepting one time when they killed Bill Breeding and burnt him. During this time there was a large group housed at John Rentals' house for four days and nights until the soldiers from Fort Sill could

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come and quiet the Indians. .

There were also several saloons during this old period but I have never seen as many drunks as I have today.

I have seen new Cordell when there was only one house and saw old Cordell burn and new Cordell rebuilt. Cordell burnt in about 1900.

My first writing ink was indigo and my husband gathered little balls off of trees that had blue water in them and he used the water for ink.

In making our first beds we used to burrow holes back in the walls of the dugout and put large poles in the holes, then lay smaller poles on the larger ones and put the ticks on the small poles.

hardships of those early days and we are now living in a dugout located in the East Hill Addition of new Gordell.