

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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**APPENDIX A**

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## APPENDIX A

### HISTORICAL STORIES OF EARLY PLAINS BY PIONEERS

#### "My Sod House and Family"

Told by Mrs. Rosetta Singley

For seventeen years we lived in a one room sod house. As time went by many experiences came along. One of these was the time when six big portly, nice looking young men dressed in the best of Western Kansas garb and armed to the teeth, rode up on their fine horses and asked for a place to stay all night. We had no room in our small house for that many men, but we were afraid to tell them that they couldn't stay. We told them that they could stay in the granary where our hands often slept. They slept in the granary, but when we awoke the next morning they were gone. It really didn't give one a very comfortable feeling at the time, but in a few days we heard that a bank in Dodge City had been robbed and then we had a queer feeling for we have always believed that these men, no doubt, were connected with it.

Several times we experienced the danger of prairie fires. One, I remember, started down by the Cimarron river and burned its way within a few miles of our community. Men came from all over the county and took their turn fighting the blaze with wet sacks and by plowing fire guards.

From time to time there were these typical Western Kansas storms. Some were more severe than others. One evening a driving rain blew in from the northwest. Mice had cut the tar paper between the board roof and the sod that covered it, so soon the rain was pouring in until practically every place in the room was wet. The only place we could find to sleep where it was dry, was under the table. We put the leaves up on the folding table, stretched the oilcloth over it. Under this we put the feather bed, and that is where we slept to keep dry.

From year to year the old soddy became weaker and weaker, especially one corner where the milk cow would go when she got loose from the rope and hook the corner with her horns until she practically took the corner out.

