

**INDIA H. SIMMONS**  
India Anna (Harris) Simmons  
*Project Consultant – Kearny County*

*In 1936, India Simmons was the Ford County, Kansas District Supervisor  
For the Federal Writers' Project.*

**INDIA ANNA HARRIS**, daughter of Amos Mathews Harris (1833-1901) and Jane Hill (1835-1905), was born on 1 Jul 1868 in Newark, Greene County, Indiana. In 1880, the family was living in Jackson, Knox County, Ohio. There India received her education. Later, she attended a college in Gambier, Knox County, Ohio. She arrived in Kansas in 1897 and taught in the rural and graded schools for ten years. Most of her work was in Hamilton County. There she served one term as County Superintendent of Schools and did the same thing in Kearny County in 1916. She taught school for about 15 years in Hartland, Lakin, and Syracuse, all in Kearny County.

Like Albertine Becquet, she was a supervisor of the Federal Writers' Project in 1936. Her territory was mostly in Ford County, Kansas. She was very active in learning about the history of the West and enjoyed sharing information and details with others.

She married Sheriff **HARRY SIMMONS**, son of James L. Simmons (1836-1911) and Jennie Cantrell (1841-1910) on 7 Mar 1900 in Syracuse, Hamilton County, Kansas. Harry was born in 1865 in the state of Illinois. He was the sheriff of Kearny County when they married and later was the superintendent of the Amazon Irrigation Ditch Company. In 1920 and 1930, he was working as a stockman on their ranch in Lakin, Kansas.

They had one daughter, **HELEN E. SIMMONS**, born in about 1906. In 1942, she was living in Winter Haven, Polk County, Florida. There, like her mother, she taught school.

In 1940, India was living with her daughter, Helen, in Winter Haven, Florida. By 1941, she had returned to Lakin, Kansas.

Harry passed away in 1934 in Lakin, Kearny County, Kansas. India died there in 1942. Their burial was at the Lakin Cemetery.