

No. It was still Indian Territory. We didn't have any law, only the U.S. Marshals from Vinita and Muskogee.

(Was this the main street, the busy part of town?)

Yes, the main street ran, no, at that time the main street was this way. - - ran north and south.

(What is now the highway?)

Yes. It is now the highway. What few buildings there were, I think they have just around the corner from there was a grocery store. And we lived on the farm owned by Mr. Jim Skinner for one year. Then we moved out on the river and lived on a farm owned by Aunt Jennie Martin, a year. Then we moved up on another place, I don't remember who owned that place, seemed like a man named Elliot, I believe, owned it. And there, our barn burned with thirteen horses in it and all the feed, well, implements, everything we had and it was set by people that didn't like us, wanted us out of the community I suppose, and so then my dad moved to town and put in a hardware store, and then he was in the hardware business until 1925, and he retired. I think we moved to town in 1900.

SCHOOL AND CHURCHES ABOUT 1900

(What was your early schooling, Mrs. Thomas?)

Well, we had two schools. One was called the white school, one for the white children and the other was the Indian school, where the children of Cherokee blood or any Indian blood in 'em went. And our school was kept up by what they call subscription. They had to pay the teacher so much per head. I was about seven years old, I think, when we moved to town, and that was my first schooling. Then I had, - there was a big family of us, I had five