

Field Worker: Thad Smith, Jr.  
March 29, 1937

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BIOGRAPHY OF: Mrs. P. F. Holding  
(nee Mary Alice Collins)  
Chickasha, Oklahoma

BORN: September 16, 1865 in  
Rockford, Illinois

PARENTS: Father: Charles Collins  
Mother: Mary Worthley

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I was born in Rockford, Illinois, September 16, 1865, moving from there to Chillicothe, Missouri. There I met and married B. F. Holding and we moved to Chickasha, Indian Territory in 1898 where my husband practiced law until his death in 1934.

Chickasha at the time we arrived was just a little cow-town. There were milk-cows and hogs running loose on Main street. There were three brick buildings in Chickasha in 1898 and several frame buildings in Chickasha built on stilts, as the town was built on low ground, and in wet weather the water would be several inches deep in the streets. The first two churches in town were the Baptist and the Presbyterian, both frame structures.

I had never seen an Indian until we moved to Chickasha, and I was actually afraid of them. They wore blankets and moccasins and their long hair in braids. Later I had several good Indian friends. I met Quanah Parker, Chief of the Comanches and Lone Wolf, Chief of the Kiowa tribe.

In 1899 Doctor Johnson, our local doctor was kidnapped and blindfolded and taken to an outlaw hide-out to doctor an outlaw that had been shot. After the doctor had ex-

tracted the bullet and patched up the wound, the outlaws blindfolded him again and brought him back to town. There weren't any section lines in those days. The country was open range, and the roads all ran at angles.

Buck Sparks' ranch house was in the edge of town, he had lots of cattle and good horses. His brand was three stripes. (made like this III). There were several other large ranches near Chickasha.

Nearly all of the merchants had hitching racks in front of their stores. You could always see a few cowboys in town, with their saddle-horses and buggy horses tied to the hitching-racks.

I have lived in Grady county since 1898 with the exception of one year, when my husband and I lived southwest of here in the Keechi Hills.

THE END