

TAYLOR, F. S. (Mrs.)

INTERVIEW

#12024

204

Interview with Mrs. F. S. Taylor
511 W. Adams, McAlester, Okla.

Field Worker - Charline M. Culbertson
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149
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I was born in Washington County, Arkansas, in the year 1859.

My parents were David and Mary Reavis. Both are buried in Arkansas.

I came to the Indian Territory in the year of 1883 with my husband and two children. A brother of my husband and a brother of mine came with us. We had not planned on stopping in the Territory but were on our way to Texas, but we thought this such a fine country that we gave up the Texas idea. Our trip, which was in a covered wagon, was made in eleven days.

Our first location was in the Choctaw Nation on the bank of the Canadian River on the T. J. Phillip's farm, where my husband farmed for five years. Our home was a one-room log house with a fireplace and no windows. We lived in this hut three months until

2

we were able to get possession of a little frame house.

There were eighteen little houses on this particular tract of land, owned by T. J. Phillips. The adjoining farms were owned by a Mr. McDuff.

Our trading was done at Canadian where there were three stores, owned by T. J. Phillips, John O'Toole and a Mr. Fleming. I do not recall who the postmaster was. I think one or two of these old buildings still stand today. One is where the Canadian barber shop is located.

There were two churches, the Methodist and the Baptist. School was held at one of the church houses but I do not recall who the teacher was.

We had our neighborhood prayer meetings. When we attended church we had to drive into Canadian.

I have witnessed some of the Creek camp meetings. We would often go to them on Sundays. We were served Pashofa and Tom Fuller from bowls on a long table.

We ferried across the Canadian River but I do not remember who operated the ferry.

3

We caught lots of cat fish out of the Canadian River after the big head rises. My husband did very little hunting.

After our five-year lease was up at the Phillips farm we moved across the river into the Creek Nation where we lived one year. We then moved to Checotah, just at the time of the building of this little town. My husband and I ran a boarding house. There was one store and a depot; our house was the only dwelling. A Mr. Burton owned the store while a Mr. Beck was depot agent. There was no school nor church and we moved away before either one was built.

We made good crops on the bank of the river, having plenty of feed for our stock. We had plenty of eggs and sold them for twenty-five cents a dozen.