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INTERVIEW WITH MRS. MOSE ANSPACH.

Mrs. Mose Anspach, Route 5, box 100, Muskogee, Oklahoma. Her first husband was Conrad Koehler, her maiden name was Mary Elizabeth Kerr. Mother was Louisa Coodey, daughter of Joseph Coodey, and sister of William Shorey Coodey was born at Fort Gibson, Oklahoma June 18th, 1957, Age 79, 64th Cherokee. Father's name was Frederick Kerr, born Pittsburg Pa, in 1812, died in the Cherokee Nation, seven miles west of Fort Gibson in 1884, his parents were immigrants from Germany.

Mother's name was Louisa, born in Tenn, died at Fort Gibson in 1882.

Mrs. Anspach's first schooling was in Fort Gibson at the age of six, went to school one year. The school was built of logs, had two rooms with an open hall between the two buildings. The seats were long benches with a board about ten or twelve inches wide for the back, tables were used for desks and the children had to furnish their own table. The teacher's name was Hitchcock. We only used three books which, were the Blue back speller, Rays Arithmetic and the McGuffie reader. After one year in this

school I did not go to school any more until I was 16 years of age, I then went to the Cherokee Seminary at Tahlequah, going there one year and that was the extent of my schooling, except what my mother taught me at home. When I went to Tahlequah to attend school my mother took me there from Fort Gibson in a two horse wagon, it would take all day to make the trip, we stoped at the half way point which was known as the Gulager Spring. The only expense while going to the Seminary was board and room. After finishing one year, there, my mother came for me, and we returned to Fort Gibson with the same kind of transportation.

At Fort Gibson there were what we girls called the circle, there were about twenty members and all were girls, when we had a party, we would envite the boys we wanted to attend. We went to prayer meeting each Wednesday night, and to Sunday school and church on Sundays; we had a dance each Friday night inviting the boys we wanted to attend; there were never any fights, and one of the boys were caught drinking he would be sent home and never invited again, we only had to send one home.

During the Civil war, my father was not in the Army but, was employed by the Government, going to different places on

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various missions and was also employed in surveying, and placing the iron posts on the Cherokee Nation boundary line. During the Civil war my sister, and I killed lots of wild hogs. We had an old negro that drove the wagon, stuck and loaded the hogs as we killed them, we used an old musel loading rifle to kill the hogs, after we got as many as we needed, the old negro would take them back to the Fort and dress them.

During the war, after the battles they would bury the dead soldiers on the battle field, then after the old Military cemetery was built at Fort Gibson, they took the bodies up and transferred them to the Fort. General Rucker's wife died in Fort Gibson of a natural cause and was buried in the public burial ground. When they began taking the soldiers bodies up and moving them to the old Military cemetery, they also took General Rucker's wife's body up and moved it, she was the only woman buried there. After General Rucker was retired from the Army. He continued living at Fort Gibson, and at his death he was buried in the Military Cemetery. General Rucker and his wife were from Chicago, Illinois.

There were two stores on the old Texas Trail, one at the mouth of Grand River, this store was known as the Jollier Store,

it was owned and operated by three brothers named Collier. There was another store just east of what is now known as Gibson Station about ten or twelve miles north of Muskogee, this store was known as the Gulager Store, operated by Clu Gulager's father, when people coming south arrived at the Gulager Store they were told that they had better stock up, that it was a great distance to the next store, and the travelers going north were told the same story.

The first Hotel in Muskogee was owned by Mr. Metchard, it was located just south west of where the M.K.T. depot now stands. It was built of log, with the logs standing straight up and down, the roof was made by stretching a tarpaulin over the top. The next business house was built by Atkinson and Robt. It was the first General Mercantile store in Muskogee. The first drug store was owned by Mr. Cummings and Dr. Williams. The Patterson Mercantile store was located on Agency Hill and later moved to Muskogee. George Elliott was first Postmaster in Muskogee, the post office was located in the Atkinson Robt. store.

I saw the first M.K.& T. passenger train that run to Gibson Station. Every one for miles around were there to see it. The railroad at that time went no further north than Gibson

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Station, lots of the people that came to see it were afraid and would not come very close, several teams hitched to wagons run away but no one was injured by them. An old Indian known as Coolboy was drunk, and the engine popped off steam scalding Coolboy; he started running and as he passed a saddled horse he lost his balance and fell against the horse, the horse kicked Coolboy and broke his leg.