

MALLOW, J. O.

INTERVIEW

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Elizabeth Ross, Field Worker

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J. O. MALLOW  
A Biographical Sketch  
Personal Interview With Subject  
306 North 8th Street, Muskogee, Oklahoma

Mr. J. O. Mallow was born March 26, 1860, four miles north of McKinney, Texas.

When Mr. Mallow was seven years of age, his father died. After a period of about seven years his mother was married again. He left home at this time to live with a family whose young son became a chum and close friend.

Mr. Mallow became interested in herding cattle and worked at this occupation for a period of thirty years.

In December, 1888, Mr. Mallow came to Caddo, Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory. At that place his step-father and step-sister died. Mr. Mallow remained at this place and farmed for a period of six years. Being the only man in the family (of his mother and two widowed sisters), he was necessarily very busy; he prospered and lived happily.

He recalls that in the year 1893 the Choctaw Indians received a large payment of money due them from the United States Government. In this year (1893) he

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was married to Miss Zetta Foster, of Caddo who was born at Van Buren, Arkansas. Their first child, a son, Jesse, was born at Okmulgee, Creek Nation, Indian Territory; (they have three other children. Young Mr. Mallow now lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and for several years has been employed at the Firestone Rubber Co.)

Mr. Mallow was in Fort Gibson, Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory, the night the notorious Cook gang shot up the town.

He came to Muskogee, Creek Nation, Indian Territory, on July 3, 1894, and worked at the carpenter's trade.

In 1900 he removed to Okmulgee, Creek Nation, where at that time a negro was postmaster. Returning to Muskogee he recalls that in 1905 street cars were first used in that town.

He was farming a tract of land that belonged to the Garland farm. Mr. Garland had sold the right-of-way to the Traction Company. Surveyors came out and placed their stakes among the young corn plants, and Mr. Mallow plowed up the stakes. It was only after a firm stand on Mr. Mallow's part that the grade boss came to confer with him and settlement was made in a satisfactory manner. Being a former railroad worker, Mr. Mallow was familiar with rules pertaining to that business.

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Mr. Mallow is remarkably well preserved for one of seventy-seven years and could easily be taken for a much younger man. He is a pleasant and interesting conversationalist and has a store of information relating to his life and that of others, both in Texas and Oklahoma.