

R. D. McCalman, Atoka, Oklahoma. Born, November 15, 1908, Caddo, Oklahoma. Parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. McCalman. White.

MR. McCALMAN'S STORY:

My parents came to Oklahoma from Texas, January 1, 1902, by train over the M. K. & T. Railroad.

My parents took part in the entrance of Oklahoma and Indian Territories into Statehood.

"The Caddo hills of Bryan County were at one time the home of a tribe of the Caddo Indians, a now extinct tribe. This was part of the territory taken over by the Choctaw Indians.

"The town of Caddo was at one time the Southern terminal of the Katy Railroad and the trading post for Ft. Towson and Ft. Washita.

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"Ft. Washita in Bryan County, I believe, was the only Fort in Indian Territory held by the Confederacy throughout the entire duration of the Civil War. This Fort is now abandoned and in ruins, and there is also an old abandoned Military Cemetery at this old Fort Site. where U. S. Army Officers of rank have been buried. This old Fort was located in what was the Chickasaw Nation of Indian Territory.

"The old Armstrong and Bloomfield Academies were located in Bryan County but there in [is ?] nothing left of them now but the Site. The buildings have long ago been dismantled, or burned.

"There are some 3 or 4 old Choctaw Courthouse and Whipping Post Sites in Bryan County. I know of only one of these old Courthouses yet standing and it is at Caddo.

"One thing that was a big item in its day was the old 'Caddo Corn Carnivals.' This was an annual Fair that attracted State wide attention in the early Statehood days. These were discontinued during the World War and were never started again. These Fairs were of course located in Caddo.

"The location and opening of the Southeastern State Normal (it was then called) at Durant was quite an affair for this section of Oklahoma.

"The opening of the Durant-Denison Red River Bridge created quite a bit of excitement only a few years ago."