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INTERVIEW WITH MRS. LUCY HEAD
Address--Route #5, Muskogee, Okla.
8 miles east of Muskogee in what is
known as Goose Neck Bend.

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I am 77 years old. Lived in Oklahoma 67 years. Parents came here from Trenton, Ga., in 1869. I am one-sixteenth Cherokee.

My relatives were all confederates. My father was Major General in Confederate army, and was named David L. Nicholson. Fought in the war with General Johnson who was later followed with Gen. Hood. Father was buried at Tahlequah date unknown to me but was later dug up and moved to Greenhill Cemetery in Muskogee. He was born in Georgia. Mother's name before married was Mary Beeson and was born in North Carolina. She is buried with father in Greenhill Cemetery in Muskogee, Okla. Date born and died not known.

We settled near my old home place in Goose Neck Bend where I now reside. I use to attend the Female Seminary at Tahlequah from the years 1872 to 1875.

I crossed the Ark. River on the Nevins Ferry at the mouth of Grand River en route from home at Goose Neck Bend to Tahlequah. Nevins Ferry as located at the present Muskogee Water Pump Station on the Ark. River. The ferry was a flat boat concern operated apparently by white men altho Mrs. Nevins I believe was a Creek and her husband a Choctaw.

Later we use to cross the Frozen Rock Ferry located east of the present Frozen Rock School. The Roger boys operated this ferry. I think one of their names was Connell Rogers. Don't remember when it was started or given up. There was a ford about due east of the present town of Riverside. They called it Rabbit Ford. I never crossed it, but saw it lots

of times. They just used it when the river was low.

Steamboats use to land just south of the Nevins Ferry near the present Water Pump Station. They brought up provisions, feed and such. They tried to run on a schedule of at least once a month but they many times failed. They would take back hay and barge logs down the river. I cannot remember any of the names of the boats but they were of small type. I do remember a Captain of the one of the boats. His name was Jim Vann, the grandfather of a man named Joe Vann that I understand that is now living in Muskogee. The most of the Vann's settled around Webbers Falls.

I use to teach in what we called the National schools. I taught one year at Texanna which was near the present town of Checotah. I will never forget I had 30 little Cherokee boys in my school. The school house was built of cabin type made of logs with split log benches. I married and quit teaching and became a farmer's wife and so lived the rest of my days.

I remember the Smith Ferry. Can't say when it started but it is still operating today at intervals. We use to cross here in order to get to Webbers Falls with out cotton, etc., and get our groceries, dry goods, etc.

There use to be a toll bridge on the old Texas Road on Elk Creek run by a man named McIntosh. I crossed this in 1874 en route to Mrs. Drew's house on South Fork of Elk Creek to attend the wedding of her daughter, Jessie. She ran a toll bridge there. I have forgotten her first name but I shall not forget because someone wanted to cross the bridge and had

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nothing but a Coon Skin and she took that for toll. She said she often took anything of value when they had no money.

Back again to the Nevin Ferry there was a store and commissary run by a man by the name of Nip Blackstone. I think part of this old place is still just north of the Muskogee Pump Station.

Our social activities were few. We did visit our neighbors and friends occasionally and attended church. We use to have those old fashioned square dances sometimes, too. No, we never did any of those Snake dances, etc., but many of the Indians did so.

I am a distant relative of Judge O.H.P. Brewer and Cherokee Brewer (Mrs. Jackson). We never said Cherokee we just called her Cherry.

I can't recall much else at this time.

L. W. Wilson
Research worker