

INDEX CARD

degrees--oklahoma territory

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DIRECTOR S-149.  
211 FEDERAL BUILDING,  
MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA.  
GERTIE, GOODFOX; Field Worker.

An Interview with  
Mrs. Maggie Martin Hewitt.  
Pawnee, Oklahoma.

I was born in Forest City, Missouri, Folk County, May 1st, 1865. In 1893, I came to Perry with my small boy. I was a widow then. We stayed in Perry one year and came to Pawnee in 1894. I bought three lots while I was in Perry but I had heard so much about Pawnee that I decided to come on to Pawnee. I rented a small house from Rush Roberts, an Indian. There were just a few of us colored folks here in Pawnee. There were Katie White, Greenberry Waldrep, Nelse Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Emerson, Mary and Charles Williams, and myself and boy. There were a few others but they were out in the country. We had our church meetings as early as 1894, but we had no church, we just held our meetings first in one house then in another.

In 1900 or earlier ( might have been in 1899) Brother Weir from Vinita came with about 10 or 12 Layman, and they helped us to organized our church, the First Methodist Church. I was the first Stewardess. My duties were to see that each member payed his dime, to pay for our Minsiter's salary, and then I saw that each member attended church regularly. We had fine times, we had our church socials and our Lodges. Now we don't have any more lodges, as there are such a few that take interest, and there isn't

any one outside of me that took any interest in any social affairs like I did.

In 1900 there were a few of us that wanted a bill passed, Old Ex-Slave Pension, I was the Secretary and wrote out the bill, but the bill didn't go through. You see some of us that were down here were born during the Civil War. We moved from the South after the Civil War and moved here to Oklahoma.

I have my home, but certainly have a time trying to make my living. Things are more hard to get than they were when I first moved here.