

Field Worker: Jimmie Birdwell
May 18, 1937

Interview with Jesse T. McCracken
Oklahoma City, Okla.
1800 S. Eastern Ave.

Born February 1, 1847,
Tennessee.

Parents McCracken, father.
Tennessee.
Campbell, mother,
Tennessee.

Mr. McCracken made the run here in 1889, at the age of 42 and staked a claim about fifteen miles southeast of Oklahoma City. He was one-half mile south and one-half mile east of Mishah, a little country store and postoffice.

He built a small frame house close to a big spring and he says that his first years on his place were awful hard because of a drought. It was so dry that he could not raise anything at all. Corn planted in the new sod would burn up, only the first few rows along close to the small creek making anything. He just about made enough corn for bread. For fruit they had wild plums and berries. This was just about all he had to eat. The spring where he built his

house was named Clear Springs, by Mr. McCracken. This spring came out of a bluff and he built a dam below and made a small pond, which was used by the christian people for baptisms. There was a cemetery established, joining the McCracken place and it was named the Clear Springs Cemetery and is still used today.

He says that rabbit, quail, prairie chicken were plentiful and were about all the meat he had for the first three or four years. They would get berries and plums enough in the summer to do them until another berry season. Wild grapes were also plentiful and were one of the main food dishes. What little groceries he bought came out of Oklahoma City.

A few opossums were caught along the little creeks and the fur sold. There were a few skunks also, but hides and fur were not worth very much.

Mr. McCracken's farming tools were, an old wooden beam turning plow, one double shovel and a home made harrow, two split poles in a V shape with wood teeth. Seed was dropped by hand.