An Interview with Mrs. Mary E. Shockley, Carmen
By Pearl E. Parker, Field Worker.
June 23, 1937.

OPENING OF THE CHEROKEE STRIP AND LATER SETTLEMENT.

Mrs. Mary E. Shockley came to Oklahoma from Pratt County, Kansas, January 5, 1894. She located and homesteaded a claim two and a half miles south of Carmen. She came from Pratt, Kansas with her five children. Another family came with them; they had four children.

"We lived in a dugout on Eagle Chief Creek until the rains came and washed us out of the dugout. I stayed in the hole until I was taken out as the water was up to my waist.

"We made a hole in the roof to get our belongings out and the men waded the creek to get horses, cows, and hogs, swimming all the time as the water was so swift.

"When the high water came people were camped on the creek banks and the boys had to swim their horses to get their families to safety as the water covered their tents.

"We lived on the creek nine years before moving a half mile south where I am living with my two sons at the present
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mile south where I am living with my two sons at the present
"My husband passed away three years ago.

"We attended camp meeting to which we drove in a spring wagon, along the Eagle Chief River.

"The Indians passed through our country but we did not have any dealings with them.

"Game was plentiful. There were many squirrels and lots of quail and wild turkeys.

"I will be seventy-seven years old on the fifteenth day of July 1937."