

SMOCK, ELOISE INTERVIEW.

#6624

365

Margaret McGuire, Field Worker
Indian-Pioneer History
July 12, 1937

366

Life story of G. W. Stidham given
by Mrs. Eloise Smock, grand-daughter,
Eufaula, Oklahoma.

My grandfather and grandmother came to the Territory from Alabama before the Civil War. I do not know how old they were then or the year they came. They traveled in ox wagons. Grandfather had about fifty slaves. He located northwest of what now is Eufaula, near Sodom stomp ground. The Indian Agency then was near or on the same ground where the U. S. Veterans' Hospital is now located near Muskogee.

My grandparents were both Creek Indians and lived with the Creek Tribe. When the Civil War began, grandmother having died a few years before, leaving him with several small children, grandfather did not go to war. When the War got bad and they began to kill so many people and burn houses, he left everything he had here and moved into Texas. When the War was over he moved back to the Territory near the Red River and built his first home there. It was made of logs and mud, they did not have nails as there were no Trading Posts near enough to buy them. He made pegs of wood to fasten the covering on his house.

He later moved to McIntosh County, about two miles east of Eufaula. He owned the first Trading Post established here.

He helped to organize the first Masonic Lodge in Oklahoma, Lodge No. 1, which is still in Eufaula and now has a large membership.

Mennie Stidham, my grandmother, was also a Creek Indian. She was a housekeeper and spun thread to knit all the socks and stockings the family wore. She would also take the corn to a stump that had been hallowed out and then take a big maul and pound this into meal for the family bread. She was a devout Christian and did a lot of good in her community.

When the war was over my grandfather's slaves did not want to leave him, especially the old ones, so he built small houses on his farm and let them stay there as long as they lived. He was a good kind man to his slaves and everyone else.