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Indian-Pioneer History, S-149

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J. B. Bigby  
Field Worker

Interview: Rose Smith  
Charley Starr  
Mary Starr

THE OLD ANDREW SMITH HOME

One and one-half miles northeast of Evansville, Arkansas in what was Indian Territory, Cherokee Nation, and what is now Adair County Oklahoma, on State Highway No. 51, an old house and farm, known as "the Smith farm", is located. This house is a substantial wooden structure in good repair. It is a one-story, five room house. It is over one hundred years old, being built by Ellis Starr about the year 1830. Starr had several negro slaves who assisted him in the building of this house and clearing a large farm, which is on the south side of Evansville Creek.

About the year 1831, Starr sold this place to Andrew Smith, a full blood Irishman, who was born in Ireland, came to America, when a young man, in a sailing ship. He soon settled in Memphis, Tennessee working in a store as sales clerk and as bookkeeper. Here he met Miss Sallie Henson, a half-blood Cherokee Indian, who he married. Shortly after their marriage, they came to the Cherokee Nation, bought the above mentioned place and settled down for life in the new country where life was very different to what they had been used to. He was a prosperous farmer and stock raiser. He is buried on the farm not far from the old home. He was born in Ireland in 1781 and died at his old home in the Cherokee Nation in 1869.

Rose Smith, a daughter of Andrew Smith, and who is now 75 years old and still living, was born in this old house and still lives in it. She has never married. She tells us that when she was a girl, the social side of life consisted of visiting the neighbors, who, in many cases lived several miles away, attending singings, Sunday School, Church Services, which was mostly at Pea-

the Church about ten miles distant, the old camp meetings, neighborhood work-  
ings and hunting trips.

Rose Smith tells us that when she was a girl, game was plentiful. She  
says that it was nothing uncommon to see a large herd of deer near their yard.  
Old turkey, squirrel, solives and occasionally a panther, would be seen. She  
says that the wild grass was plentiful in the woods and open ground. Stock  
could live on the grass all winter.