

STAKES, DICEY

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STAKES, DICEY SECOND INTERVIEW

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Jefferson Berryhill,
Field Worker,
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An Interview with Mr. Dicey Stakes,
Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

The Early Okmulgee

The name Okmulgee is an Indian word (a Creek word). The Creek Indians called it the Ue-mulgee and the white people gave it the name of Okmulgee because they heard the word Ue-mulgee from the Indians.

The reason they call it Ue-mulgee was because before the city of Okmulgee was built, it was a field. At Seventh and Morton Street there was a pond, which is now the location of Parkinson Hotel; just across the street, where is now the J. C. Fenney Store, was a big spring or a well where the people got their drinking water, also for horses or any stock. There was a big trough in that spring that was always full of bubbling water which the Indians called the Ue-mulgee, and it was from that the city of Okmulgee was named. The A. P. Brown Store location on Sixth Street was a peach and apple orchard, and one block east from there was the Indian graveyard.

I heard when I was a youngster of a prophecy which

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was told by an old Indian, which prophecy was that some day after seventy-five years the City of Okmulgee, would ^{either} come in or sink out of sight and be a big pond or a lake as the ground under the city was hollow. That was the talk among the old Creek Indians and that was to happen on a Saturday. Those who are older and heard the prophecy which was handed down from generation to generation still believe it, that it will really happen. The time is near they say.

The beginning of Okmulgee, was a slow process until the railroad was brought through. They were told that the white people were coming to build a city and they waited at the depot and when the train arrived, many white people came. That happened every day until there were hundreds of them, then one day a train load of negroes came. Everyday more negroes were brought until there were many. These negroes settled along the railroad and in that way the negro settlement was started which is now the east part of Okmulgee.