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Crime--Creek Nation
Tulsa

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Field worker: Reuben Partridge
March 24, 1937

Interview with Mrs. Mary Burgess McKay

EARLY INCIDENTS OF TULSA AND VICINITY.

Mrs. Mary McKay, age 61, who used to be Mary Burgess, lived when a girl with her mother, Kizzie Milford Burgess, and her father, Feighian Burgess, on the east side of the Arkansas river about four miles south of Jenks, Oklahoma. Later, the family moved to the Spike S, or Sanger's ranch on the north side of Snake creek, about three or four miles south of Bixby.

While returning from a trip to "Tulsey" (Tulsa), or Luchapoga settlement, with Jack Burgess and Bill Malone, a white man, Feighian Burgess was stabbed by Malone and died the next day. This was in the year 1877. Malone rode Burgess's race horse to Wealaka Ferry, where Joe Burgess (the father of Feighain) ran the ferry, and told Joe to go to his son who was badly hurt, and that he (Malone) would go across the river after the doctor. This doctor was Dr. Newlin, who afterwards moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma. Malone rode on into the Choctaw Nation where he was afterwards killed. The race horse was found and brought back.

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After the death of Feigehian, his wife and little girl went to live with his father, Joe Burgess, who died in 1878. About that time Mary's mother married William (sometimes called Poo) Sunday, and about 1880 they moved to Tulse Town. At that time there were only tents scattered here and there, and in 1881 Mrs. William Sunday had a tent on the Arkansas riverbank, where the Frisco bridge is now, and they fed the working men at the bridge. Later they moved to old Bill Burgess's place under the old standpipe hill. This old house still stands.

The cultivated farm of Bill Burgess extended from his house to the Frisco right-of-way. Mrs. McKay's mother (Kizzie Sunday) claimed about five acres of land adjoining the farm of Bill Burgess, which she let go to the Methodist church for a building site on the west of Main street, between the present location of Archer and Brady streets.

Mary Burgess McKay says that in 1883 and 1884 she used to stand many times on the top of Standpipe hill and count the houses and one church (Presbyterian) and could name the family in each house. In 1891, when Mary was sixteen years old, she married Claude Flippen, who bought the butcher shop at the northeast corner of First and Main Streets, which was owned by Bud Wallace.
