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Interview with  
Mrs. D. J. Randolph  
105 South Kanthuz  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Mrs. D. J. Randolph, nee Jones, was born in  
Tulsa, Oklahoma, on May 5, 1890, and moved with her parents  
to Cherokee County, Kansas, in 1900.

She married D. J. Randolph in 1910 and they lived in  
Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. There was a period  
of time when she worked as a domestic in  
St. Louis.

Mrs. Randolph's first husband was killed in  
the war and she had to support herself and  
work to hold necessary household needs, their children  
and their two children.

They joined the caravan which started in  
narrow car tracks. The caravan started to move  
way in case of to assist someone whose horse had  
broken down. Sturdy iron chairs were found in these  
camps.

It took weeks to cover short distances. The  
men used their guns to provide food. The Indians

often snatched their small supplies, bringing with  
turkey breasts to exchange for their necessities.

drinking, and unable to afford...

They made the run from Guthrie south  
the road and Fox. Claims were made to hold the  
fleetest man, unless there was a "hazard" there  
ahead of him, which was often the case.

Randolph finally got a good site at Soldier

Creek, sixteen miles southeast of Guthrie. Here

they lived under a wagon sheet from July

November. Their simple garden table and benches

ble a fine garden from the virgin soil. They

managed to get four cows and sold milk to the

neighbors. The life of a pioneer woman was

difficult, a living must be made. So with the

aid of a cross-cut saw Mr. and Mrs. Randolph

cut hundreds of logs which Mr. Randolph sold

in Guthrie for 5 and 9 cents each.

Finally by November they had prepared logs

enough to build their cabin and Mr. Randolph invi-

ted eight of his neighbors to help him build his cabin. Plans were made in advance.

Randolph had gone on a hunt and had returned with three moose and thirteen turkeys and they had quite a feast with their garden vegetables, plenty of milk and a few treasured eggs.

These eggs were used to "pot" the bears. Randolph found a finished cabin. The dirt floor was covered with straw which in turn was covered with a warm rag carpet.

The loneliness in the wilderness at times was almost heart-breaking to Mrs. Randolph. She recalls one experience especially. Mr. Randolph had gone to Guthrie with a load of logs. It was a cold night, their only protection the timber stretched quilt over the opening as they had no door to the cabin. Mrs. Randolph heard stealthy steps and weird moaning cries and she immediately thought of wild-cats and then knew she must save

her four brothers and sisters

staying with her and the other women

brass lead and small pieces of iron

ton feet high and they were scattered

Their names were written on the

if they were found in the

bring his head down and come to the

She told her sister to stay in the

her sister was supposed to stay

Randolph's address broadcast the

gun and bomb. The bottles have

cluded blood in the

for them and as they did so they

feet. The bottles protected the

her sister for the rest of the night

large camp-fire. Amongst

the size of a man's hand. The noise

foot-prints had been made by the

found in that part of the country.

Mrs. Randolph had various expeditions with  
Indians. They had now been some old ones.

went to visit his father, Mr. J. A. Lane,  
Gravhorse, sixteen miles west of Sashuska.

The Ojibwa Indians would often come to visit  
them, twenty-five or thirty at a time. They  
would stay for the noonday meal, enjoying the  
garden vegetables which they were too late to  
raise. They would always trade coffee or calico  
or whatever the Government had. They had  
garden seed.

Garden seed was very precious. Mrs. Ran-  
dolph recalls her struggle to save it. She  
had successfully grown four Louis Long-necked

pumpkins from seed sent to her by a letter  
from Iowa. She was saving these pumpkins  
their seed. Chief Blackbird and his followers  
dropped in for a meal. He saw the attractive  
pumpkins, went to the garden and pulled them.

Mrs. Randolph went out and demanded that he put

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the pumpkin down at once. He threatened to strike her with it. Mrs. Randolph, from her pioneer experience, was very bold. She seized a pole and demanded that he put the pumpkin down or she would strike him. It must have been the look in her eye, for he dropped the pumpkin and taking his followers, departed and did not return again while Mrs. Randolph was there.

These Osages, wealthy in their own right, were always hospitable when the whites went to see them. They would spread a wagon sheet on the floor and all would squat around it. The cook would sit on the floor in front of the fireplace and do her cooking. Then she would turn and pass out the food, everyone lolling lazily in his place.