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ADAMS, DICEY STATES

INTERVIEW #6000

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Jerome M. Emons
Field Worker
May 25, 1937

Interview with Dicey Stake Adams
Okmulgee, Oklahoma

I was born in 1879 where I now live, at 19th and Choctaw, Okmulgee. My mother, Sellie Sone, died only last year, on October 4th, at the age of 96. I do not remember my father, whose name was Bonnie Scott.

MISSION

I attended the Oologah mission, which was located on the Arkansas river south of Bixby, for three years. It is not used for a school now, but I think the building still stands.

LIFE AND CUSTOMS

When I was first married my husband and I lived in a tent. We built a log house for a home later. Many mornings we would see wild deer in the yard. My husband was a good hunter. He killed many wild deer, turkey, ducks, etc., and sold them to the white men. Fur bearers such as skunk, 'possum, fox, helped to boost his income.

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I used to cook for the Creek Orphan's Home east of Okmulgee. Sofkey and Blue dumplings were two of the dishes I prepared. Moti Tiger was the Superintendent of the Mission at that time. Afterwards, I cooked for wealthy ranchmen (one was John Porter), and often milked as many as 20 cows. Other ranchmen were John Moore, Buford Miller and F. B. Severs.

ROADS & FORDS

I don't remember many roads or trails, though one ran through our land from Cussetah to Okmulgee. There was a ford on Okmulgee Creek about where Douglas Park is now. I had to swim my horse sometimes to get across.

ALLOTMENTS

I received 160 acres for my allotment in 1904. My daughters and I received, also, money payments to equal the value of my husband's allotment. He had died in 1902.

COUNCILS

The Indians who came for the councils would live in tents until the session was over. My husband would sell

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them wild game he had killed. I cooked Sofkey grits, sour cornbread, Blue dumplings and other dishes. One U. S. Marshal, a colored man named Bass Leaf, would come through Okmulgee occasionally.

BURIAL GROUNDS

There was a burial ground at 7th and Muskogee Streets in Okmulgee, which was formerly an orchard. My father was buried there. My mother was buried at Newtown. There was a burial ground used by the Cneecote family northwest of town. Also, one at or near the 'risco depot. Jack Porter and his wife, Lucy, and son, John, were buried there. Mose Asbury, who was murdered by Tom Chickasaw, is also there.

An epidemic of smallpox broke out among the Creeks and some of them were isolated in a house across the road there on Pearly Fox's place. When a person was taken there, all their clothing and bedding was burned. We weren't allowed to come into town, so our groceries were brought out to us or else to the edge of town.

MARRIAGES

I have been married four times. Of my fourteen children,

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only three are living, My daughter Katie Asbury was the third child and the oldest living. The other children are Amos Nigger, 26, of Newtown, and Mary Jane Stake who is 17.

COMMENTS

My mother told of a white man who questioned two Creek women as to their names. One of them said, "Sos-a-go", which means, "there isn't any," so the man started to write and the other one said, "Cos-a-go", which means, "he's scratching it." Mother thought that was very funny.

John Davis was an Inuian doctor who lived near Nuyaka. He has helped me with his doctoring. The bark of the cottonwood tree boiled is useful in the reducing of a swelling.

Dr. Mensley's drugstore sold whiskey in addition to drugs.

My daughter, Katie Asbury, was one of the Creek women to greet Mrs. Roosevelt, the President's wife, on her recent trip through Oklahoma.

There is a Mrs. Merryman, a Creek Inuian woman, who must be around a hundred years old, who lives at Dewar, Oklahoma.

Anna Bird, whom I used to play with as a girl, was reared by Captain Melcher and his Creek wife, Laumesen. Anna died soon after finishing school.