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Interview: Mrs. Annie Archer

OLD TIMERS

Mrs. Annie Archer, the wife of T. J. Archer (deceased) now living at 738 North Denver Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma, was born August 31, 1808 at Springdon, England and was the daughter of George and Hannah Lowbray who came from England to New York State and later to Kansas and still later to Indian Territory in 1888. She has been an active member in the Methodist Church all of her life.

Mr. Thomas Jefferson Archer, the deceased husband of Mrs. Annie Archer, was born March 17, 1861, near Fort Gibson (known as the Frozen Rock District) His parents were Dr. and Mrs. James Archer and they came to Ft. Gibson from South Carolina with the Cherokee Indians in one of the migrations (year not known) (Dr. James Archer was a prominent physician before coming to Indian Territory and still continued to practice after coming here. His mother's maiden name was Key and it was from her that he got his Cherokee blood.) Mr. T. J. Archer attended the district school until he was fourteen years old and then went to Osage Mission, Kansas, for one session, from there he went to Muskogee and clerked in a hotel until 1882, at which time he opened a store on the Verdigris River twenty-one miles east of Tulsa. When the Frisco Railroad came into Mingo, Indian Territory, he moved his store to that place and then when the Frisco built on into Tulsa, he moved his store here, it being located on the east side of Main Street between First Street and the Frisco track. In 1887, he built his first store building, it being one of the finest in the town. He carried a stock of merchandise of about \$7,000.00 value. He was agent for Weir Plow Company, Bain wagons and Buckeye machines. In 1889, Mr. Archer married Miss Annie Lowbray and to this union three children were born. In addition to his store business, he was a large

cattle raiser, at one time having as many as five hundred head. Later on, he enlarged his store business to take in a line of furniture and hardware and he also put in an undertaking establishment. He continued to operate in this business until October 29, 1894, at which time an Indian by the name of Andrew Perryman, Creek full-blood, came into Mr. Archer's store while drinking heavily and wanted to buy some ammunition for his revolver. Mr. Archer refused to sell it to him while in that condition (they were very close friends) and asked him to come back when he was sober but Mr. Perryman refused and demanded that he sell him the shells and some little argument ensued. During the argument, Mr. Perryman said he would kill him (Mr. Archer) and pulled his gun. Mr. Archer caught hold of him to take away his gun and in the scuffle, the gun was discharged, the bullet hitting a keg of black powder, causing it to explode, doing considerable damage to the store building and burning both Mr. Archer and Mr. Perryman. Mr. Perryman died the next morning for the effects of his burns and Mr. Archer died on November 30th, a month later. He died from the burns, also concussion of the brain caused by the explosion. This left Mrs. Archer with two children and a baby to be born three months later. She continued to carry on the business left by Mr. Archer until 1898, at which time she sold to her brother George W. Mowbray. Her father took over the undertaking establishment at this time.

Andrew Perryman was the son of Legus Perryman who was about the last chief of the Creek Nation.