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ARNOLD, T. A. (Mrs.)

INTERVIEW

4926

INDEX CARDS

Texas Migration
Greer County
Chickasaw Nation
Mineo

Field Worker, Thad Smith, Jr.
7-22-37.

Interview with Mrs. T. A. Arnold,
Chickasha,
1028 Idaho Avenue.

Born April 5, 1872, Iowa.

Parents Wm. Crow, Indiana.
Ann Hadley, Indiana.

My husband and I were married in Gaines County, West Texas, and soon after our marriage decided to come to the Indian Territory, so that fall, 1891, we packed our belongings in a covered wagon and started on our way.

We forded Red River, into the Indian Territory, northeast of Quanah, Texas.

We hit a little strip of country just inside the Territory that had "gyppy" water, but we were prepared for that, as we had a big water keg in our wagon which we carried full of water for such emergencies.

We did our cooking over an open fire in Dutch ovens. We had two large ovens about fourteen inches in diameter

and they were about five inches deep. They had three legs about two inches long, and a big heavy cast iron lid that had a raised rim about an inch high around the outside of the lid. The rim around the lid was what held the coals of fire on top, and made the Dutch oven bake and brown biscuits on top, like a stove oven. I made sour dough biscuits, on our trip, because of not having milk to make ordinary biscuits. Sour dough biscuits are good and when they raise like they should they resemble rolls. >

We carried a supply of flour, bacon, and potatoes on our trip, but most of the time we had fresh meat.

My husband had a shot gun and he killed wild turkeys, quail, prairie chickens and rabbits, one or the other, every day.

We traveled a road that led on to the south side of the Wichita Mountains, and was in sight of Quanah Parker's home, which looked very nice from where we were.

My husband had a friend who had married a Chickasaw woman and he controlled lots of good farming land and we were heading for his place.

The man's name was Jim Campbell, and he lived eight miles southeast of Minco. Mr. Campbell had about four sections of land broken in a square. He had ten or twelve renters, who farmed it on shares. My husband rented and farmed one hundred acres of land there. He made about forty bushels of corn to the acre and sold his part to Mr. Campbell for twenty-five cents per bushel.

We bought our supplies and got our mail at Minco.

We didn't have a school in our community, but Mr. Campbell, who had either seven or eight children of school age, hired a private teacher to come to his home and stay and teach his children.

Mrs. Alineta Sager was teaching school in Minco at that time, 1891.

In 1891 Minco was a very busy little town, as the Rock Island Railroad was building through and was just one mile south of town that fall. Lots of supplies were shipped to Minco and freighted to the near by stores.

Minco always had a celebration on the Fourth of July. The first one we attended there in 1892 was a basket dinner, with horse racing and dancing.

Some Indians were there, too, and had their dances.

We didn't have any church in our neighborhood until we organized a Baptist meeting in 1898. We met once a month, winter and summer. In the summer we met on the river and preaching was held under a brush arbor.

In the winter they met at my house and had services.

W. B. Crocker, our pastor, drove from Purcell every month to hold services.

I consider crab grass as being the growth which was most detrimental to farming in the early days. We were not bothered with insects, and there were very few weeds.

There were lots of wild plums, and grapes on the South Canadian River, which I gathered every fall and made into jelly. We lived in Minco until 1902.

I have a piece of cotton cloth that was made by my grandmother, in North Carolina, in 1817. She grew, carded and spun the cotton and wove the cloth.