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Field Worker: Effie S. Jackson
April 20, 1937

JOHN ARCHER -- FLORENCE MOSELEY

Interview with their sons
Ernest and T. Jeff Archer
543 Kennedy Building
Tulsa, Oklahoma

John W. Archer, born in Greenwood, Arkansas in 1859, married Florence Moseley, born in Ft. Gibson, 1866, in Webber Falls, 1883. Mrs. Moseley's family history is of especial interest. She was the daughter of Sanford Moseley and Neosho Davis--Her maternal grandfather was Lieutenant John P. Davis, who was one of the government's "escorts" on the "trail of tears".

Lieutenant Davis, born in Ireland, a West Point graduate, was sent to Rome, Georgia, on government duty. There he met Teressa McToy, a high-type Indian girl, part Cherokee. They came with the first Cherokee migration--belonging to the Old Settlers group. Later Lieutenant Davis was ordered to return and assist with the forcible removal of the later Cherokees. Oftimes Florence Archer told her children stories of suffering as she recalled the tales told by her grandparents. The Davises belonged to the Anti Treaty Party.

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Lieutenant and Mrs. Davis were stationed at Ft. Gibson until the Civil War. His name may be found today on the roster of service posted at Ft. Gibson. During the Civil War Davis fought for the Confederacy under General Stand Watie.

After the war Lieutenant and Mrs. Davis were placed in charge of the Mission at Tallahassee, Davis, the superintendent, and Mrs. Davis, a teacher. Their only daughter, Neosho, was raised and received her education there. Later she married Sanford Moseley, a ranchman of a family prominent before the Civil War. As T. Jeff Archer tells the tale, carpetbagging days followed the war, freedmen sometimes appointed deputy U. S. marshals. In the meantime the Moseleys had moved to Catoosa. In an altercation four freedmen soldiers killed a friend of Moseley's. Mr. Archer could not remember his name. At any rate Moseley became so incensed that he sought out the soldiers, one by one, and killed three of them. In turn he was hunted down by U. S. Officers and killed. Later Neosho Moseley married a man by the name of Etter, moved to Tulsa, where she died in the early eighties. Florence Archer was the only child of the marriage of Sanford Moseley and Neosho Davis.

The Archers came from Middle Tennessee, moving to Arkansas about 1830. T. Jeff Archer's grandfather, Thomas Jefferson Archer, was a surgeon in the Confederate army. The name Thomas Jefferson has been given to the youngest Archer for a number of generations. The present T. Jeff Archer named for his uncle, who was so tragically killed during Tulsa pioneer days. A drunken Indian, one of the Perryman's, shot into a keg of powder in the Archer store, accidentally killing Mr. Archer.

John Archer, son of Thomas Jefferson Archer, the Confederate surgeon, came to Tulsa about 1882. As a cow-puncher he had brought thousands of cattle from Texas to Tulsa, a shipping point. Here he met Florence Moseley, her mother having moved here from Catoosa. In 1882 they were married at Webber Falls. T. Jeff Archer said that he had occasion to look up his mother's marriage license recently and found it a very interesting document. He said it looked like a page torn from a journal. It was written in longhand, had the Cherokee seal and was issued in what was then the Canadian district.

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His father, John Archer, entered the cattle business in the early eighties. The Archer ranch began with the present Brady Street, in the heart of Tulsa today, and extended north and east including over one thousand acres. The brand was the Rafter "L". After the allotment, the Archers, one daughter and four sons, kept their land intact. So the northern part of the city of Tulsa lies for the most part in what was the former Archer ranch--Reservoir Hill Addition, Brookdale and others. Archer Street, one of Tulsa's oldest streets, now running miles from the easterly to the western edge of the city, is named for that pioneer family.

John Archer died in 1925. Florence Moseley Archer died March - 1937.
