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ATKINS, SARAH ANN

INTERVIEW

6707

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ATKINS, SARA ANN.

INTERVIEW

6797

Florence Duke,  
Field Worker,  
July 17, 1937.

An Interview with Sara Ann Atkins.  
Stigler, Oklahoma.

My father, Isaac Jetton, of English descent, was born December 20, 1826, in Tennessee; died at the age of eighty-seven at home while living in Stigler with me. He is buried in the city cemetery, Stigler.

My mother, Elizabeth Williams Jetton, of English descent, was born December 10, 1822, in Tennessee; died November 2, 1908, while living near Bloomer, Arkansas, and is buried in the Bloomer Cemetery, Sebastian County, Arkansas.

I was born on the 2nd day of November, 1857, in Greenville, Sevier County, Arkansas.

The first school I attended was in Greenville, Arkansas, right after the Civil War. The building we had to go to school in was made of logs that were cut by the people of this settlement.

During the Civil War, I was just a small child, but I can remember seeing men going to war. I went with my parents to see them off. We also visited their camps.

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where my father made shoes for them to wear. During this time all the people down South had plenty to eat, but the people up North were suffering from lack of food. Sometimes it was hard for Mother to get coffee to drink. After the War we then went to Boone County, Arkansas, and stayed there until 1868. Then we went back to Sebastian County, Arkansas, in 1870. During all these years we were moving around my father would make shoes for the people to wear, while my mother and older brother did the farming. I lived here until I was married in the year of 1873.

I was married to J. J. Berry, of English descent, born March 31, 1850, in Franklin County, Arkansas, near Charleston. We were married at the home of my parents in Sebastian County, Arkansas, near Bloomer, by the Baptist preacher of Lavaca, Arkansas. We then went to Sebastian County and lived there until we came to the Indian Territory in 1893. We settled in the Choctaw Nation near the town known as Stigler.

At the time we came here, there were but two small stores, one cotton gin, and the post office was in the home of Sim Stigler, who lived in a little log hut. The day we arrived in Stigler the cotton gin was operated for the first time.

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Settling here, my husband farmed for two years, raising cotton and corn, and two years later he was employed to work in the gin by Jack Jetton, J. W. Teever and a Mr. Mcsee. It was here that we made out home until my husband's death, April 30, 1901.

After losing my husband, my children and I lived in our old home until I lost my baby boy in 1903 and a daughter in 1906. At this time my father came from Arkansas and lived with me until his death in 1914. After my father passed away and my children all married and left home I broke up house-keeping, going to Fort Smith to live with Mrs. Walton. After staying in Fort Smith for five years I then came back to Stigler, making this my home once more.

I was married to T. L. Atkins of Stigler, November 30, 1925. We were married by Brother Alexander, pastor of the Methodist Church at that time. We made our home here in Stigler until Mr. Atkins' death May 11th, 1930.

I am still living in the same old home place in Stigler and I will be eighty years old on my next birthday.