

### **Notice of Copyright**

Published and unpublished materials may be protected by Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code). Any copies of published and unpublished materials provided by the Western History Collections are for research, scholarship, and study purposes only.

Use of certain published materials and manuscripts is restricted by law, by reason of their origin, or by donor agreement. For the protection of its holdings, the Western History Collections also reserves the right to restrict the use of unprocessed materials, or books and documents of exceptional value and fragility. Use of any material is subject to the approval of the Curator.

### **Citing Resources from the Western History Collections**

For citations in published or unpublished papers, this repository should be listed as the Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

An example of a proper citation:

Oklahoma Federation of Labor Collection, M452, Box 5, Folder 2. Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

ARCHIBALD, MARY

INTERVIEW

#12054

24

Investigator, Charline M. Culbertson,  
November 2, 1937.

Interview with Mary Archibald,  
No. Eurch Street.  
McAlester, Oklahoma.

---

I was born at Scullyville in the year 1861. My parents were Edmond and Anna Fulson. They died during the Civil War. Father was buried at San Bois, and mother was buried near Red River.

I lived with my grandmother, Mrs. Bethia Ansley, after my parents died. I stayed with her until I was fifteen years of age at which time I received my education at New Hope Seminary. It was at this school that my mother had received her education and I was preparing to send my daughter there at the time the school burned. It was a two-story, rock building. Mr. Bryce was superintendent. On one side of the building were rooms for the girls to board and on the other side were quarters for the superintendent, the hired-hand and the dining room and kitchen. New Hope School was located about one mile from Scullyville. The books we used were by McGuffey.

My grandmother would spin and weave the cloth for my school clothes. She bought calico for twenty-five cents a yard.

There was three stores at Scullyville. The postmaster was Lyman Moore, who was an uncle of mine. The three stores were operated by Mr. Fox, Mr. Tippet and Mr. Harland. The blacksmith was Mr. Mitchell.

My grandmother always had a nice orchard and dried lots of fruit for the winter months. She would store away barrels of apples. We never wanted for anything, but always had plenty to eat as we could raise most anything we wanted. My grandfather hunted very little; however, there were plenty of deer and wild turkey to be found. We would often run the wild turkeys down instead of shooting them.

Grandfather was a close friend of the Choctaw Indian people. They held their camp meetings near his place. He always planned and fixed for the campers. They would always gather at his house. On one occasion one of the men at the camp meeting was taken ill very suddenly and Grandfather took him into his home and tried to save his life but was unable to do so. Grandfather was known as a doctor

ARCHIBALD, MARY. INTERVIEW.

12054

-3-

among these people and was often called upon to come to their bedsides. He was also known as a peace-maker among them and at the time of any trouble they would call on him to settle the disturbances.

Grandfather also ran the mill and gin at Scullyville but I do not recall who owned them. Saturday was always the day Grandfather ground corn.

I have attended the Indian cries which were held a year after death. They served their pashofa in bowls with horn spoons from a long board table. Then, after the feast and the preaching were over we would go down to the grave and the women would do the crying in a singing, crying way.

The Choctaws and Chickasaws were closer friends than any other tribe. The Chickasaw Indians often came to our house. They put stripes of paint around their mouths. The women wore their hair down to their shoulders. Some Choctaws also did this.

I recall one large cattle ranch on the San Bois Bluff. It was owned by Lindy Walker. Cattle ran out on the range.

ARCHIBALD, MARY. INTERVIEW.

12054

-4-

There was very little trouble among the Indians. Some held grudges and would kill. I recall one evening at church a drunk Indian rode into the church house and fired several shots. Everyone was scared and went home.

At the age of fifteen years we moved to McAlester where Grandfather died. Then, there was only what is known today as North McAlester. They had not started to build South McAlester.

There were three stores here, owned by J. J. McAlester, Phillips and Jones. I cannot recall the name of the postmaster. There was also a hotel called the Elk House run by a Mr. Settle. The church and school were where the Sixth Ward School is located today. A Mr. Trenchard was the teacher at this time. He paid me to assist him as he had more scholars than he could take care of; however, I attended classes, too. There were lots of full-blood Indian children going to school there.