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INDEX CARDS

Mercantile establishments--Creek Nation
Muskogee
Okmulgee
Sovers, F. B.
Ranching--Creek Nation
Masonic Lodges--Muskogee

Store as given by Joe A. Bailey

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I was born in North Alabama, near Guntersville, in 1855. My father and mother were born in Tennessee and died in Alabama. They were not Indians. I moved to McLain, Oklahoma in the spring of 1888 and in the fall moved to Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Old Captain Severs hired me to work in his general merchandise store as clerk, soon after I came here. The store was a long frame building on the southeast corner of Main and Okmulgee. (Where the Hubber Hotel now stands).

There were just two other general merchandise stores here at that time. One was Turner and Harshap, located on the east side of Main Street about half way between Broadway and Okmulgee. The other general store was Patterson and Robb, on the southeast corner of Broadway and Main. The Turner Hardware Company was located on the northeast corner of Main and Broadway. There were two drug stores, one run by John Cobb and one by Old man Cavigan.

Captain Severs also had a store in Okmulgee, Oklahoma and all the merchandise sold there was hauled from Muskogee by wagon. Charlie Thomas had charge of the hauling. Severs also had a large ranch at Bald Hill.

Billy Martin was the store manager here. Most of the trade was with Indians and I had to learn how to speak Greek.

The Katy Railroad was here then and there was also a stage line to Ft. Smith, Arkansas.

H. B. Spaulding and also Hip Blackstone had large ranches near here.

Cotton and corn were the money crops raised here.

The main cemetery here then was on 6th and Fondulac. (Across from where the Baptist Hospital now is) Green Hill Cemetery was also here at that time and later the bodies were dug up and moved to Green Hill from the 6th and Fondulac location.

All the stores had big cisterns and that is where we got most of our drinking water.

John West (father of Dick West) was the city marshall here in the early days and Pat ^{Byrne} Burns was the Mayor. The jail was about where the Barnes Building now stands. It was called the calaboose.

There was a Masons lodge here then.

I worked for Captain Severs five years and then started farming.