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CANDY, RACHEL

INTERVIEW

#12725

297

CANDY, RACHEL.

INTERVIEW.

12723.

Jas. S. Buchanan,
Investigator.
January 18, 1938.

— Interview with Rachel Candy
A Cherokee
Route 2, Box 124, Braggs, Oklahoma

I was born February 16, 1880, at what was called the old Garfield place, now known as the Ballard place about ten miles northeast of the town of Braggs. My father was Louis Dasley, German, and my mother was Aggie Raincrow Dasley, full blood Cherokee. I was reared in the immediate vicinity of my birth place and attended the Cherokee National schools.

My father engaged in farming and operated a grist mill on little Greenleaf Creek about one and one half miles southeast of Braggs, this being the first steam mill in the Cherokee Nation.

During my early life this country was very sparsely settled and our roads were only trails made by the early settlers, and for several years our closest trading post was J. J. Patrick's store, at that time situated on the Arkansas River north of Braggs. After the Missouri Pacific railroad built through the Territory Patrick

CANDY, RACHEL.

INTERVIEW.

12723.

- 2 -

moved his store from the river to the new town of Braggs. J. J. Patrick and Thomas Madden owned the two first stores in the town of Braggs. The town of Braggs was built on the original claim of Solomon Braggs, who was a white man, an intermarried Cherokee citizen who came to the Indian Territory in the removal of the Cherokees. The town was named in his honor. The old home of Solomon Braggs is yet standing on my allotment, one half mile east of Braggs. It is a story and a half log house with a hall through the center, two rooms on each floor, a porch the full length of the house in front and rear. A stone fireplace in the south end of the house with the chimney built on the inside of the log wall. The porch posts are of cedar about ten inches in diameter and there is an old stone cistern located near the southwest corner of the house. This house was built by Solomon Braggs in the year 1840 and is now the home of my son, Louis J. Candy.

CANDY, RACHEL.

INTERVIEW.

12723.

- 3 -

In 1897 I was married to Jesse Candy, full blood Cherokee. Three children were born to us, two now living. My husband died December 10, 1910.

When Jesse and I got married I was eighteen and Jesse just a little older. We began housekeeping in a one room log cabin which Jesse had built on his claim near Greanleaf Creek. The cabin had a stone fireplace in which we did our cooking as we had no stove at first. In warm weather I cooked on a fire on the ground under a brush arbor at the back of the cabin. My cooking utensils consisted of a dutch oven, a cast iron pot and a skillet. Our living expenses were not much of a problem as the only articles we had to buy were our sugar and coffee, as we raised our corn from which our bread was made. As for salt, there was a salt water spring near our cabin from which Jesse would carry jugs of salt water with which I would mix my bread and cook other food that needed salt. As for meat, that was the least of our worries as we had our choice at all times of killing deer, wild hogs,

CANDY, RACHEL.

INTERVIEW.

12723.

- 4 -

wild turkey and prairie chicken, all kinds of wild game being plentiful at that time. Money was something of which we saw very little but all our needs were met more abundantly than now and we were happy.