

FARRILL, WALTER.

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Florence Duke,  
Investigator,  
June 23, 1937.

Interview with Walter Farrill,  
Whitefield, Oklahoma.

My father, Thomas Farrill, English and Irish descent, was born February 14, 1849, near Hollow Springs, Mississippi. My mother, Susie Williams Farrill, English descent, was born the month of May, 1849, at Hollow Springs, Mississippi. My parents were married in Logan county, Arkansas, in 1872 having a very quiet wedding with only a few friends present. After the wedding they made this their home for twelve years, later moving to Ft. Smith, Arkansas.

I was born September 24, 1874, in Sebastian County, Arkansas, of which Fort Smith is the county seat. At the age of two I came to the Indian Territory with my parents. We came by wagon and team and it took us a day and a half to make the trip. We first settled fifteen miles southwest of the old Skullyville, near Bokoshe where we received our mail at this time. Making a five year lease on the Indian land, we improved the land and farmed cotton and corn.

The first church service in this community, was held at our home. A Baptist preacher who traveled around from place to place each Sunday holding services - not having any place

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to hold church-my parents invited him to do so at our home. Once a month for two years he came to our home and held services. The people of this settlement went together and built a small log cabin in which to have church and school. It was in this little log cabin that I spent my first and last day of school.

I can remember the days when I was a small child, and Belle Starr, the outlaw, came to our house. She was a well dressed woman riding a good looking horse. She often came by my grandparents blacksmith shop to have her horses shod, on her way to the Ozark Mountains where she would hide out. After doing this several times, she one day rode up to the house with two men; we kids being out in the front yard they picked us up taking us to the house with them. They took out their guns when they reached the door, held up my parents and grandparents taking \$600.00. My grandfather had his money in a safe in the blacksmith shop and they asked him for the key. He told them he did not have one. When he told them this one of the fellows knocked him in the head with a six shooter. Later they found out that my grandfather used only a

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nail to open the safe, they did so taking the money and rode off. Belle Starr was well known throughout this part of the country at that time, as a dangerous outlaw.

I was married to Miss Theodosia Hendricks, a Choctaw, born the year of 1880 at what is now known as Hoyt, Oklahoma. She made her home there until our marriage April 15, 1896. We came three miles east of Whitefield, rented land and built our own home. At that time I did all my farming and trading in livestock. After marrying into the Choctaw Tribe, I took more interest in the Indians and attended more of their get-togethers, such as Indian cries where the people would go to the graves of their loved ones, kneel down over them and pray. They had their services which would take the day. Each year they had big camp meetings and Indians from far and near came and camped for weeks at a time. All the Indian women would go together and prepare Indian dishes. I also helped build the first church in Whitefield, which was destroyed in a storm only a few years ago.

I voted under the Choctaw law, and helped elect Green McCurtain Chief of the Choctaw Nation. I later moved into the town of Whitefield where I have lived for the last thirty-

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eight years. At this time I have three girls and four boys living, who are:

Mrs. Otis Williams, Stigler, Oklahoma.

Mrs. Doude Ellidge, Stigler, Oklahoma.

Edward Farrill, Whitefield, Oklahoma.

Emrie Farrill, Whitefield, Oklahoma.

Robert Taylor Farrill, Whitefield, Oklahoma.

Loraine Farrill, Whitefield, Oklahoma.

Frank Farrill, Whitefield, Oklahoma.