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INTERVIEW WITH EDMOND FLINT
by

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Edmond Flint was born in Atoka, Indian Territory, in 1853 and lived there until 1868. He then moved to Blue County, Indian Territory.

I went to school at Fort Arbuckle one year. The books I studied were the Blue Back Speller, U.S. History, Geography, reading and writing. The man and woman (his wife), who were my teachers, were missionaries from the northern states.

I married November 26, 1882. My wife's name was Serena Love. We had three children, Frank, Israel, Lulla, all of whom are living.

We moved to Atoka County, Indian Territory in 1889, east of Lehigh, Indian Territory. I staked a claim, fenced 40 acres and built a log house. I farmed, raised corn, cotton, and also raised hogs, cattle and ponies. I used all my corn on the farm but I took my cotton to Fort Smith to market. I had 75 head of cattle, 25 head of ponies and 85 head of hogs. They ran wild on range.

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The farming implements I bought when I started to keep house consisted of: one cultivator, one double shovel, one turning plow, Avery cast iron, one bull tongue or george^o stake, three eye hoes, one chopping ax and one cross-cut saw. ^(STC OK) Cooking utensils: One Dutch oven and lid, one cast iron kettle, one iron stew kettle, one doz. tin plates and spoons, one doz. knives and forks, and butcher knives. All these were bought at the D. N. Robb Store at Atoka, Indian Territory.

I farmed seven years, then moved back to Atoka, Indian Territory, and have lived here or near here until now, 1937.

Father's name was Isom Flint.

Mother died December 25, 1875, and was buried north of Atoka, one mile, in the Old Soldiers or Harkins Cemetery. Both father and mother came here with the Indians from Mississippi.

When I was a boy I remember the first butcher pen in this country, owned by a man named Jim Davis. Market for his meat was with the soldiers, with travelers and in the town of Atoka. The location was one mile north of Atoka, Indian Territory, near Harkins Spring. He also owned a toll bridge near there across Muddy Boggy River. All have been done away with.

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Indian Stick ball games were played one mile west of Atoka, Indian Territory, near Captain Stanley Spring.

Indian police were Tandy Walker, Captain Charles LeFlore. Willie and Jake Ayers, Cherokee Indians, were U. S. Marshals. ^{Allen?} Governors were Dr. Edmond Wright, Ben Smallwood, Wilson Jones and Green McCurtain.

Religious songs that were sung: Jesus Lover of My Soul and the Pilgrims Guide.

Costume colors for dress, were blue and red and spotted handkerchiefs around the head: there were shawls and long dresses, beads around the neck, earrings in ears and the shoes were made of hides of different kinds.

Wild game was plentiful, so were wild bees, also wild fruits of different kinds - berries, plums, grapes and nuts.

Road markings were 1 notch, 2 notches, 3 notches and fishing and hunting grounds were marked by different emblems cut on stone or trees - fish, deer, turtle, snake, coon and squirrel, representing different grounds.

My mother owned a spinning wheel and loom with which she spun thread and wove cloth.

Drums were used with which to make music.

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At the Indian's Green Corn Dance, they wore a costume which consisted of a breech clout, a fur or feather head dress, beads or hog tusks on a string around the neck, and on their feet they wore skin moccasins.

There were two political parties - the Republican and the Democrat. Style of elections: when voting, they would sit or stand, say yes or no or raise their hands, then count.

Stage line stops were at Bread Town, Atoka, and Boggy Depot. Inn keepers were Willie and Eliza Flack at Atoka and the mail keeper was named Nichols.

Our guns for hunting were cap and ball rifles, and muzzle loading shot guns. Hunting grounds were east and south of Atoka.

I have one sister living at Atoka. Her name is Jane Ward and she says she is 108 years old.