

FLOWERS, SHADE , INTERVIEW

4611

353

FLOWERS, SHADE

INTERVIEW.

4611.

Maurice R. Anderson
Interviewer
June 23, 1937.

Interview with Mr. Shade Flowers
2 Miles, S.W., Pauls Valley.
Born in 1872, Missouri.
Father-James Flowers
Mother-Mary Johnson

I was born in 1872 in Missouri. I came to the Indian Territory in 1892. My uncle was living at Dougherty in the Chickasaw Nation. I was living with my father and mother in Texas at that time.

My uncle wrote and said he would give me a job if I would come to the territory; so I saddled up my horse and rode through to Dougherty.

My uncle lived on a small farm. I helped him farm and when we got the crop laid by we started in catching wild horses; there were lots of them on Rock Creek, north of Dougherty. We built a log corral with wings extending one on each side and we would drive the horses into the corral and break them to ride or sometimes just break them to lead and then we would sell them.

FLOWERS, SHADE

INTERVIEW.

4611.

2

I have sold horses for two to three dollars a head. Some days we would catch five or six horses at one time and some days we wouldn't have very good luck and would only get two or three. I have sold horses to Noah Lael at Wynne Wood, for two dollars a head.

When I first came to Dougherty there was only one store there.

My uncle, Levi Flowers and I started a small ranch; we sold out our cattle in 1895; we had over five hundred head when we sold out.

I moved on Rock Creek north of Sulphur and leased a small place; I had to pay five dollars a year for a ten year lease. I have sold corn for ten cents a bushel. There was plenty of game at that time and if any one went hungry, it was his own fault. I always had plenty of meat hung up in the smoke house; there were plenty of wild hogs. If a hog didn't have a mark on it, it was counted wild, and anyone could kill it.

FLOWERS, SHADE

INTERVIEW. 4611.

3

I have made a good living hunting in the winter. There were lots of coons, wolves, and now and then you could find a bear and there were a few deer still in this country at that time.

There was one store at Sulphur then. I would buy my supplies at this store; the nearest mill then was at Mill Creek, I would take corn to the mill there.

There wasn't as good farming land on Rock Creek as there was around Pauls Valley. I moved to Pauls Valley and went to raising corn, cotton, and wheat and I have made a hundred bushels of corn to the acre, and a bale of cotton to the acre.

I now live three miles south of Pauls Valley.