



INTERVIEW WITH EMMA DOCTOR MANKER  
Atoka, Oklahoma  
Etta D. Mason, Field Worker  
May 31, 1937

Emma Doctor Manker was born October 4, 1863, in Missouri. Her father, Martin Henry Doctor, was born in Virginia and her mother, Levina Kellog, was born in Kingston, Canada.

The Mankers moved to Atoka when there were only two stores and a postoffice located here. The stores were operated by J. R. Harris and J. J. Philipps. The postmaster was a Mr. Nichols. There was a toll bridge over Boggy Creek where the ice plant is now located. There was only one church-the Baptist- but all denominations worshiped together. The superintendent of the Sunday School was a Baptist, the secretary was a Jew and the Bible class teacher was a Methodist. Indians attended the Sunday School. The minister was J. S., or father Murrow, as he was called by all.

The minister in those days had more to do than just preach. He had to administer to the sick and distressed. He officiated at weddings and deaths also. So J. S. Murrow was called father Murrow by white, red and black,

for he was a friend to all.

The whole townsite was covered with thick timber. If one walked three blocks west of where the railroad is now located he would find himself in deep woods or probably a plum thicket. There was a dense plum thicket where the Presbyterian Church now stands. Where the Newman home now stands was only thick woods at that time.

The land belonged to John Hodges, Choctaw Indian. Hodges built the first house in that part of town and also a big red barn. He owned many fine horses and rented them out to people to ride and drive.

Most of the land of Atoka belonged to Mrs. Flack.

The Indian lived in log houses and farmed their small corn and vegetable patches. All had ponies and a few cattle. Their habits of life were nearly the same as those of the whites.

Father Murrow worked among the Indians organizing churches and teaching them, and was loved and respected by them.

The Mankers also knew the wrights at Boggy Depot.

Mr. Manker was the first shoe and harness repair man to establish a shop in Atoka. He still has a leather shop here and is still working.

In their home they have a clock that belonged to Governor Harkins. They have used the clock fifty-five years and it had been used about that long a time when they bought it. They gave Governor Harkins \$1.50 for the clock.

They also have a marble top table that they have used fifty-five years. It is made of walnut.

They have a folding bed, three chairs and a dining table that have been used by them over fifty years.

Mrs. Manker has her mother's rocker and settee, both of which are over seventy-five years old.