

MABRAY, MARY JANE /

INTERVIEW

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Mannie Lee Burns, Interviewer,
J. S. Clark, Supervisor,
Indian-Pioneer History S-149,
Oct. 4, 1937.

Interview with
Mary Jane Mabray.
Wyandotte, Okla.

We attended church at a little church east of where the Indian School now is. The missionaries preached there and the Indians attended and there was an interpreter who translated the sermon into their ^{language} and then translated what the Indians said for us. I enjoyed it. Johnny LaConiure was paster.

We did not understand their ways at first and the first time, that we were invited to one of their feasts, I did not know what was expected of me, so we invited some of our friends from Baxter Springs to go with us and I cooked a dinner to take with us. We went and took our dinner and put it with the dinners of the Indians.

The railroad switch was about three quarters of a mile east of where Wyandotte now is.

THE MISSION BUILDINGS.

The Quakers were conducting a Boarding School here for the Indian Children. Dr. Kirk had come soon after we did. He was assisted by Miss Lizzie rest.

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Another friend of mine, Miss Cala Allen taught there forty years. She still writes to me. She is now living at Borger, Texas. All of the buildings were frame and sat at the hill north of the place where the buildings are now.

The Town Of Wyandotte.

The location was chosen for a town because it was the best watered spot between Vinita and Seneca, Missouri, and the road from Seneca to Vinita passed near on the ridge south of the town. When the first buildings were built the people who built them were not sure that Wyandotte would become a town and the houses were set on blocks instead of foundations so that they could be moved easily. Mr. Harvey, an early-day Congressman of Oklahoma, built one of the first houses in Wyandotte after the started building. Mr. Darrow also built one and we built a story and a half house in the east part of town, where Mr. Laughlin now lives.

We sold out at the farm and went to Texas and stayed two months and came back to Wyandotte to live. That was thirty-five years ago. I kept boarders and still had so many pretty flowers that the Cherokees in passing through would stop to admire them.