

FITZPATRICK, SALLIE

INTERVIEW

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Interviewer,
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AN INTERVIEW WITH SALLIE FITZPATRICK
2 miles south and west of Kiowa

I was born in Lee County, Arkansas, where I lived until I moved to Tulsa, Indian Territory, in 1901. My parents, John and Sarah Lee Jones, lived and were buried in Lee County, Arkansas.

We moved to the Territory in a wagon driven by a horse team. Our two wagons and two teams were all we brought with us, as we didn't travel with other families or groups. We had no reason for locating about ten miles west of Tulsa, we only drifted in there. We started out with some cattle, but sold them before we got to the Territory. There were very few whites out in the country from Tulsa but most of the inhabitants were the Creek Indians or the clan of Snake Indians which were rather wild. However, they never bothered us, but I can remember how afraid I was of them.

We had a very hard time in renting a place, as the Indians were not supposed to rent until on a certain day in March. However there was a Creek Indian woman who let us rent her log house as that was what all the houses were made of. Her name was Kates, and she had killed two of her husbands in this house. For this crime she was never punished.

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For sometime before renting this place we lived in a tent and cooked over a campfire. Our house was, as were all the other houses, of log construction. It had plank floors, clapboard roof, and had no windows, only shutters. About fifty yards from the house were the graves of the men that the Creek Indian woman Kates had killed.

The Indians believed in feeding the dead so she would go out and put bowls of food on the grave. The Creek Indians would bury their children in hollow trees. They would often be found when anyone would go out and cut a tree down for wood. The little skeletons would be in the tree. The adults were laid out on a scaffold and put up in trees.

My husband planted a little crop which was mostly corn and wheat, with very little cotton. At that time there was no cotton gin in Tulsa, only two flour mills. Flour sold for fifty cents for fifty pounds.

We made our own furniture which consisted of beds, tables, and chairs. We had what was called the trundle bed, one which was very high and the other which was much lower. In the daytime we would slip the smaller one under the larger one as we had only one room.

A year later we moved onto the bank of Little River near Dexter, or what is now Clayton, Oklahoma. There was a

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little store there operated by William Garland who was a cattle man in connection with his store. This building is still standing in Clayton, the last I heard, however I do not know what it is being used for.

Our principle food was meat and bread, as there was lots of game such as turkeys and deer. We didn't catch very many fish in Little River however, but when we lived near Tulsa we caught lots of Yellow catfish in the Arkansas River.

There were lots of wild horses which belonged to the Choctaw Indians. They were not branded and I do not know how the Indians could tell them apart, but they did. We bought one from an Indian and paid him twenty dollars for it. Those horses were very easy to tame, and they would run through the woods like a deer.

We had a few fullblood Choctaw^s friends, and I will give you the names of two. They were Lefus Bynum and Bynum Bates. Lefus Bynum once told me he could make it rain by baptising a black cat, I told him if he could make it rain, as we did need a rain very badly, that I would give him a chicken. Well he baptised the cat, it rained, and Lefus got his chicken.