

INDEX CARDS:

Railroad Construction  
Atoka  
Toll Bridge  
Early Newspaper  
Ardmore  
Physician

BIOGRAPHY FORM  
 WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
 Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

1272

Field Worker's name Selfridge, Jennie.

This report made on (date) April 22. 1937

1. Name Mrs. Israel W. Folsom.

2. Post Office Address Ardmore, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 810 North Washington Street

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 16 Year 1861.

5. Place of birth Macon City, Missouri.

6. Name of Father W. W. Russell Place of birth Virginia.

Other information about father Helped build the M. K. & T. Railroad through the Indian Territory.

7. Name of Mother Louisa Cooper Place of birth Virginia.

Other information about mother \_\_\_\_\_

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 3.

Jennie Selfridge,  
Field Worker.

55

An Interview With Mrs. Israel W.  
Folsom, 810 North Washington St.  
Ardmore, Oklahoma.

When the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railroad was being built across Oklahoma and Indian Territories in 1872, my father worked on the bridge construction for the road.

In 1873, he moved his family to Atoka, Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory. Atoka was not much of a town in those days. The stage stopped at Mrs. Flack's home. Later the Nichols family moved from Boggy Depot and established the first hotel at Atoka. After that time the stage coaches stopped at the hotel.

Father Murrow was the first minister there and established the first church, a Missionary Baptist Church, across Sandy Creek on the west side of Atoka.

There was a toll bridge on Boggy Creek north of Atoka at this time. I think this bridge was owned by a Mr. Davis.

The first newspaper I remember in that part of the country was published by Dr. Moore at Boggy Depot. This paper was called the Vindicator.

My husband was Dr. Israel W. Folsom, one-half Choctaw Indian, who was educated in Baltimore, Maryland, and began the practice of medicine in Atoka. His father was Israel Folsom, who was also a mixed-blood Choctaw, and

a Presbyterian minister. He was born in Mississippi and came west with the Choctaws during the removal. My husband's mother was Louisa Nail, a relative of Joel Nail, an early resident of Nail's Crossing, in what is now Bryan County.

Israel Folsom was the first person to translate the Lord's Prayer into Choctaw. In 1892, we moved to Ardmore where my husband began the practice of medicine. He first established an office on East Main Street, east of the railroad, in the McCoy drug store. Later we moved farther up on Main Street. This office was destroyed by fire during the big fire of 1895. I have a copy of the "Windbag" which was published the morning after the fire. The "Windbag" was a very small paper, but on this occasion they went very much into detail concerning the fire, telling how it wiped out the office of the "Daily Ardmoreite", most of Caddo Street, and practically all of Main Street, with the exception of some buildings on the south side.

When we first moved to Ardmore my husband had a hard time with his practice. There were no roads to speak of, and most of the rural visits were made on horseback. I have heard him tell about crossing creeks on foot-logs,

leading his horse while it swam across. For town  
practice he used a horse and buggy to make his calls.

He died in 1913.