

INDEX CARDS

Sac and Fox Indians
Trading posts--Sac and Fox
Mexico--Kickapoos
Kickapoos
Smallpox--Sac and Fox Indians
Allotment--Sac and Fox
Federal relations--Sac and Fox
Government--Sac and Fox
Stroud
Red Fork

Field Worker: Denna M. Rushing
April 13, 1937

BIOGRAPHY OF Mrs. Rachel Franklin,
Indian name (Ka-ka-the-da)
Full blood Sac and Fox Indian
Route #2,
Avery, Oklahoma

Location of home

Ten miles, north and one and one-half
east of Stroud, Oklahoma

BORN

1884
Oklahoma

I was born and reared on the Sac and Fox reservation in Oklahoma. Most of our trading we did at the trading post at the agency. When I was a very small girl, J. G. Charles was the trader, and later E. L. Conklin took it over.

I have a faint recollection of a group of Kickapoo coming from Mexico who stopped for a short while on the Sac and Fox reservation. While they were here, the Sac and Foxes entertained them royally with feasts. They were here only a short time, and then went on to their own reservation near Shawnee.

Some time later, another Kickapoo came from Mexico bringing the black small pox with him. Indians died by the score. It was common for five or ten to die in one day. The Hasqueé village (located one mile north and one mile west of Rose Hill) suffered the most. Practically all the village was wiped out. The grave diggers could not dig the graves fast enough, so they dug large holes and dumped the bodies in. The way the bodies fell in was the way in which they were covered. This mass burial took

place on the banks of the Luche Creek near the village. One can walk along there now and see evidences of it. Every now and then you will find a human bone, and some of the mounds are still recognizable.

There was another small pox epidemic two or three years before the World War that wiped out a lot of the Sac and Foxes. Then the influenza epidemic during the war took some more until there are not many of us left.

I can remember when there were many old Indians as well as younger ones. Especially at the councils there were huge crowds. When I was a young girl, they had a council at the agency for the purpose of sending delegates to Washington. There had been quite a bit of trouble regarding the allotment of land to the Indians, and they were to be sent to help straighten matters out.

Most of the traveling was done on horseback. From the Sac and Fox agency it was a two day trip to Cushing. People camped at those places where they found fresh water.

Stroud for a long time was a very small place, but all of a sudden when the country was opened up it sprang up into a good sized town. People lived in tents, shanties, and any other place they could find. As fast as possible frame buildings were going up. The lumber was hauled in tall wagons from Red Fork, the trading center.

There have been many changes since I grew up, some of them good and some bad. I some times long for the old life with its freedom, but it had to go sooner or later.