

FRASER, CATHERINE

INTERVIEW

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W. T. Holland,
Interviewer.

September 27, 1937.

An Interview With Catherine Fraser.
1939 North Denver Place, Tulsa, Okla.

Mrs. Fraser was born in Pennsylvania, November 23, 1868. She was married to Mr. Fraser in Wagoner in 1890. They settled at Checotah, where they lived for several years. Her daughter, Elizabeth, was the first white child born in Checotah. In 1890, when they moved to Checotah, which was a railroad town, it was only a "wide place in the road" with two stores, a drug store and a lumber yard.

W. E. Gentry, one of the merchants, later donated the land on which the Odd Fellows Home for the aged was built.

Mr. Lafayette was another merchant, and H. D. Knisely was the druggist. There were only a few dwelling houses.

Mr. Fraser was in the transfer business, having six teams and wagons and was kept busy hauling.

Merchants in the county and in small towns off the railroad for a radius of twenty-five miles, had their goods shipped to Checotah, and Mr. Fraser did the hauling,

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or delivering of this merchandise to the various towns and settlements.

Mrs. Fraser remembers something about the Snake uprising, which occurred between Checotah and Henryetta. Earl Baum, a deputy United States Marshal, went out there from Checotah to help quiet the Indians and Herman Odem, a young man under twenty years of age, and a nephew of Ed Odem, an officer, persuaded Baum to let him go along, thinking it would be a "lark" and he would get a thrill. They were met by a rain of bullets from the Indians, and young Odem was killed instantly.

Mrs. Fraser did not seem to know much about the cause of the uprising or the extent of it. Mr. Fraser was born in Inverness, Scotland, March 2nd, 1866, and came to America in 1885. His mother was Lady-in-waiting to the Duchess of Sutherland.

Later than 1890, Mr. Fraser, with J. C. Todd, engaged pretty extensively in farming and grazing near Checotah.

They leased over a thousand acres of land from the Indians, and farmed quite a large acreage, and grew grain, but more especially cotton.

They grazed great numbers of cattle, brought in from Texas.