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Indian-Pioneer History Project S-149
May 20, 1937.

INTERVIEW WITH Mary Grayson.

Mrs. Grayson's answer to questions asked were as follows:

I was born near here in 1871 and now reside at 500 South Morton St., Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

My mother, whose maiden name was Hance Coker, was part Creek and my father, whom I don't remember, was part Cherokee.

EARLY OKMULGEE

I must have been about 10 years of age when the following stores were in Okmulgee: Sever's store which was located in the building occupied by the Citizens National Bank. This building was erected the same year and by the same man, W. G. Fryer, who built the Creek Council House. A two story building due east of where the Parkinson Hotel is now, with the name Sanger and Sanger on the window. John Porter later had a store there. A blacksmith shop, where the Okmulgee Building now stands, which made coffins. C. W. Turner's store across the street from the blacksmith shop. Also I remember the Postoffice somewhere north of the Council House.

There were also a few good homes, I suppose owned by these merchants, some of which have been replaced by business buildings.

EXECUTIONS

The last man to be executed on the Creek Council House grounds was Timmie Jack in 1896. Tom Chickasaw was just a little horse thief, who was shot at the graveyard and just pushed over into a coffin and buried. Freeland Marshall was the judge at the time of his trial.

BURIAL GROUNDS

The burial ground where Tom Chickasaw was buried is at what is now 5th Street and the Frisco tracks in Okmulgee. A white man that had drowned was the first one buried there, as I remember. It was the custom to bury the dead with their heads to the west. I thought it was terrible when they started to bury members of the tribe with their heads in any direction, as in the graveyard at the extreme South end of this (Morton) street.

COUNCILS

I don't remember anything about the Creek councils except that the last one was in 1902. Also the last Loyal Creek payment was made in 1904.

SCHOOLS & MISSIONS

I was reared by Capt. Christopher Columbus Belcher, who had been a confederate soldier. He married a full-blood Creek Indian. We lived southwest of town and I remember coming through the woods to school in the southeast corner of the Council House. The janitor at the school, who I think set them out, tried to keep the children from damaging the elms. Because of the fact that there was few clearings and few houses, I suppose, it seemed an awfully long way to have to go to school. Actually it was only a couple of miles.

ALLOTMENT

My mother, who was Creek, was called white and my father, who was Cherokee, was called Creek by the Government during the Creek allotment. I just figured that the Dawes Commission couldn't get everything right.

COMMENTS

The Snake Indians were the ones who didn't want the allotments, they wanted the lands held in common. They mostly live south of Henryetta now. The reason for the Green Peach War was that the laws regarding punishment were too severe.