25

INDEX CARDS

Schools—Sec and Fox Missions—Sec and Fox Trails Freighting McCoy, Issue Pholps, G. Les FIELD WORKER LENNA M. RUSHING Indian-Pioneer History Project S-149 May 27, 1937.

INTERVIEW WITH FRANK GEREN Stroud, Oklahoma. Born 1887.

I came into this country after the opening of the Indian Territory. I lived first on a farm near the place where Stella Smith now lives. Later I got a position in the Sac and Fox Mission School as disciplinarian, which I held until the school was closed.

The school formerly belonged to the Quakers, who established it around 1865. There was but one building, which was of brick; that housed the entire school. It was used as a boys and girls dormitory, teachers living quarters, kitchen and dining room, class rooms, and heating room.

It was a task to transport their building materials over the nearly impassable trails from Red Fork. The brick was shipped from St. Louis to Red Fork on the train, and from there it had to be hauled in wagons.

When it was completed, the Friends went around to the Indians! home; and collected the children who were interested in receiving an education. There was nothing compulsory about it. Just a few came at first, but in several years

they had as many students as they could accommodate.

Around 1850 a chapel was erected down at the agency grounds proper. It was located behind the last house which now stands on the west side of the street in the agency. There are still remains of the foundation to be seen.

At that time the Quakers were the only denomination in the Sac and Fox Territory, but soon Isaac McCoy, a Baptist Missionary, came into the district. Some time later more Baptists came. G. Lee Phelps, Robert Hamilton, and Isaac McCoy, an Ottawa Indian who was named after the white Missionary.

When the government took the school over, it added two frame buildings and enlarged the original structure, and put up some work shops and a barn.

The east building was the girb"; dormitory, the center contained the classrooms and chapel, and the west building was the boys' dormitory. Directly behind the boys! building was the laundry, where a family by the name of Connalis lives now. Lawson McKinney is living where the paint shop used to be. The kitchen and dining room were in the middle building where the classrooms were.