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BIOGRAPHY OF Mr. A. G. Harris
Pauls Valley, Oklahoma

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BCRN^d February 20, 1854
In Arkansas

Father: William Harris Mother: Lettie Harris

Mr. Harris states, " I came to Indian Territory in 1886 left Arkansas in a covered wago. with four head of horses. Stopped near Foteau, Choctaw Nation, it was called Canadian District. It was a wild country then with lots of turkey and other wild game. I didn't do much huntin. myself, but my wife has killed several turkeys. There were lots of cattle thieves in that part of the country. There were several that were taken and strung up or "hanged", but I don't remember their names and I never took any part in their work. I farmed and tried to make an honest living for my family. I would only go to the store when we needed anything, the store and settlement was called High Springs.

" I saw the Indian play ball, they would use a stick of some kind and throw the ball at a pole with the sticks. I never did learn how they won the game. The Indian squaws would serve something to drink to the ones that were playing. I think it was coffee. I saw two men have a gun fight. I was getting my hair cut and a man was at the mirror combing his hair. His name was John Griffie and a man named John Harris stepped in the door and started shooting at John Griffie, Griffie pulled out his gun and they had it out. John Harris killed Griffie and received three wounds himself. The barber, who was cutting my hair, ran under the table. I sat in the barber chair and never got a scratch. John Harris was tried at Fort Smith, Arkansas, and sent to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to the Federal

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prison for six years. They didn't have any prison around that part of the country where I lived. When an Indian was tried for a crime and if he received the death sentence, they would set a day for him to come in and be shot, and he would come in, and a part Creek Indian named, Duke Berryhill, called the "Light Horsemen" would stand there to be shot up against something and shoot him. I only saw him shoot one Indian. I was about 100 yards away, but the Indians have told me he had killed several.

"I lived there fourteen years, I farmed while I lived there. There was a lot of killing around there, but I never saw them. I would not have witnessed the killing of John Griffie if I could have got away.

"I think it was in 1900 that I moved to Stroud, Oklahoma. I have seen the Sac and Fox Indians carry their babies on their backs. I moved to Sparks, Oklahoma, and was living there when Oklahoma became a state in 1907. I moved to Pauls Valley after leaving Sparks. I have lived in and around Pauls Valley since I have been married 54 years."

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