

LEE, SARAH

INTERVIEW.

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Field Worker: Alene D. McDowell
April 5, 1937.

Interview with Sarah Lee
1000 Virginia,
Bartlesville, Okla.

Born 1860, Blunt County, Tenn.

Parents Thomas Nicholson, father.
Catherine Hare-Nicholson,
mother. Tenn.

Mrs. Sarah Lee was born in Blunt County, Tennessee, in 1860.

Father - Thomas Nicholson, born in Tennessee and died in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, at the age of 87 years. He is buried in White Rose Cemetery at Bartlesville.

Mother - Catherine Hare-Nicholson, born in Tennessee, and died in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, at the age of 79 years. She is buried in the White Rose Cemetery at Bartlesville.

My parents came to the Indian Territory in the early eighties and settled in what is now Bartlesville. My father obtained a lot from William Johnstone and built his first home where the J. C. Renney store is now located on Dewey Avenue. This lot was very poor and a deep gully run through it. They filled the gully in and built their house and started their pioneer life in the Indian Territory with the rest of the pioneers.

When the railroad built their line through Bartlesville, my father hauled water for the hands. In his later years he became a real estate dealer and owned a number of homes here.

My father was a Union soldier in the Civil War, enlisting in Tennessee.

In 1899, I married Charlie Lee in Missouri and we lived in Missouri and Kansas for twenty-five years, removing to the Indian Territory in 1904. When we lived in Kansas about the time the Osage treaty was signed, the Indians went from house to house begging for something to eat. They were a pitiful sight and looked scary, and were usually naked.

When we first came to Indian Territory, we settled in Bartlesville and have lived here since. At that time everything west of the railroad track was a wheat field. Houses were scarce and we could not rent, buy or beg a house and had to live in a tent where we lived all summer. My father gave us a house and we secured a lot located in what is now the southwest part of town, but was then considered the country, and we moved our house onto this lot. I live in this house at present and have lived here since the spring of 1905. My husband was blind for twenty years before his death in 1931. We celebrated our 52nd wedding anniversary a short while before Mr. Lee passed away.