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FIELD WORKER LULA AUSTIN
Indian-Pioneer History S-149
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INTERVIEW WITH FORBIS LEFLORE
532 North 7th, Durant, Okla.
Born Jan. 31, 1867,
Doakville Choctaw Nation.

Father's name Forbis LeFlore
Born Mississippi.
Mother's name Annie Mary Maurer
Born France.

Annie Mary Maurer was born in the village of St. Croix, Alsace March 8, 1845 and Forbis LeFlore was born in Mississippi. Father was married three times, his first two wives were Choctaws. Father was an attorney and came from Mississippi in command of a colony of Indians. Many died on the way over from exposure. They would wrap them in a blanket and bury them. On their arrival here they made camp at Doakville and broke them a little land planting corn and sweet potatoes, they would dig a little hill and stick the potatoes in. Little log pens were built air tight to keep the potatoes in. Father made a harness for his oxen from hickory bark and took shucks from the corn and made the oxen collars.

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He used a wooden plow and sled, his sled he made using a forked tree.

My father represented the Indians who left property in Mississippi. He won a judgment from the United States, which was paid off twenty years after his death. We drew 10 % on it when it was paid off. He was also one of the council members to make the treaty of 1866 after the Civil War representing the Choctaws.

My father had a book with his name on the back with a record of all the families with their children's names that came over in his colony from Mississippi. Before coming over the Indians' only way of keeping a record was with sticks. A family kept a stick for each member of the family - adding a stick when there was a birth and throwing one away if there was a death. Father died in 1881. Mother died in 1912.

I on-y went to the third grade, but after I grew up I tried to educate myself by reading and listening

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to educated people talk. When I was 15 years old I was appointed Deputy Sheriff of Blue Co. under the Choctaw government. While serving as deputy I was in Judge Parker's office one day when a call came in for a warrant to arrest Jesse James and Belle Starr, said they had robbed a bank in Kansas. I told the Judge I knew they were wrong as I fed them at my home 150 miles away at the time they were supposed to have robbed the bank, the Judge refused to issue the warrant.

I arrested Belle Starr three times at Skullyville for peddling whiskey, each time she paid a fine and was let go. Jesse and his bunch would only rob the higher ups and gave it to the poor, keeping many. I have had many close calls while Sheriff.

After I married I went into the cattle business owning around three thousand head of cattle and three hundred head of horses. I rode in the saddle day after day looking after my cattle. When on the roundup we would stop at the closest house for our meals. I remember on one day fifteen of us rode up to Dixon

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Durant's little storehere in Duran. and he didn't have enough in the store to feed us, so he said "Boys go on over to the house, my wife will cook you a good dinner." He did, and I will never forget that dinner. Greenwood LeFlore, my uncle, was Governor of Mississippi. My grandfather LeFlore was a fullblood Frenchman named Louis LeFlore. Basile LeFlore was my father's half-brother; he was Governor of Choctaw Nation. Capt. Charley LeFlore was my half-brother. There were nine in our family, only three living. Mrs. Ed. Perry, Oklahoma City, 729 W. 16th. Mrs. Lucy Bentley, who makes her home with Mrs. Perry and myself. I have my father's old family Bible published in New York in 1848. It has a record of marriages, deaths and births up to the present generation.

Bill Anderson, Maxwell, Oklahoma, lives with Will Cotton in the country; he is an old slave of my father's (90 years old). My father paid seven hundred and fifty dollars for him.

Jonathan Nail, built a vault in the bottom of his cistern, on his place near Kenefic. In this vault he

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kept his money; he was a very wealthy man. He was drowned in Blue River, his widow married Dave Folsom. Joel Nail was her son.