

LONG, TISHIE

INTERVIEW

#12304

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Leticia
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Investigator
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An Interview with Mrs. Tishie Long
South 8th Street, McAlester, Okla.

I was born at Scullyville, Indian Territory, in the year of 1869. My parents were Edmond H. and Parmelia Krebs. Mother was buried at Scullyville while Father was buried at Vinita. Tandy Walker was my mother's brother and he was the governor of the Choctaw Nation when she came here.

My father was transferred here from Mississippi with the first group that were transferred here by the Government. They first landed at Fort Coffee and were not there but a short time. It was eight or ten miles from Scullyville, to which place they were soon taken.

Father was judge in Coal County, Indian Territory, or what is now Pittsburg County. In Choctaw it was called "Toboxy" County. He was also interpreter at Judge Parker's Court in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

I received my education at New Hope Seminary which was one mile from Scullyville. After Father moved to McAlester he would take me to New Hope Seminary by wagon

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and return for me after the nine months term was up. It would take two days to make this trip. The first night we would stay in the home of Ed McCurtain who had a girl named Jenny who also was attending New Hope.

The old rock New Hope school building was used for a hospital during the Civil War.

I left New Hope Seminary in the year 1888 and at that time the Superintendent was Brother Methan. Prior to this a Mr. Sheppard had been the Superintendent.

Captain Peachlin, Captain Riddle and Uncle Tandy were in the same company during the war. They took their families to Texas until the war was over. Uncle Nathaniel who was my Father's brother fought on the Union side. He was later Indian policeman in LeFlore County which was then called Scullyville County. Scullyville meant "money town".

My grandfather's old homeplace still stands at Scullyville or Spiro today. It was a double log house, one immense room with concrete floor. One odd thing about the place was that the kitchen was built out separate from the other part of the house. There were

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lots of large pretty trees in the front yard and under these trees Grandfather kept his bees.

When I was six or eight years of age Father moved his family to North McAlester where I attended my first school. Mr. Trenchard was the teacher. The frame building was located where the Baptist Church is today. Father kept several boys in his home, their parents paying for room and board, to attend school. Our home was located where the Methodist Church is today in North McAlester.

In our school work we used the Blue Back Speller. We also attended church in the school building.

There were three stores which comprised all the business houses in McAlester. One was owned by J. J. McAlester. There was one hotel called the Elk House.

Father had lots of full-blood Choctaw friends. Two families I particularly remember were the War sisters and the James family. These families lived mostly in the surrounding mountain territory. Every month they would come in to town and sell venison hams for very little. They would stay at our house for a week at a time. Father could speak Choctaw as well as English.

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We always attended church at High Hill which is about seven miles southeast of McAlester. Here we would spend the day taking our lunch with us.

I have attended the Choctaw funerals and think it very outrageous when they call a funeral a three day cry as that is not what it is. In those days it was a very hard matter to secure a preacher at the time of a death and ^{it} was necessary to postpone the funeral until a preacher could be gotten and in this way the date would be set and on Friday evenings and Saturday we would have a Choctaw meeting and then on Sunday we would have the funeral and naturally the mourners would cry if it was six months or a year after a death.

I recall two toll bridges on the South Canadian River. One was the Brassfield Ferry and the other the Stanley Ferry.

In 1888 Father moved his family to Krebs which is three miles east of McAlester. Here there was one big trading company called the Monogue. People living near McAlester would do their trading at this store.

A year later, Father bought a big farm near Canadian and we moved to this farm. The farm was known

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as the "White House Place" as it was the first nice white house in that community. The lumber was brought from Fort Smith, Arkansas, to build the house. It still stands today just north of Canadian.

I am in possession of a solid walnut dresser that belonged to my father, also an old Choctaw Bible.