

TOWNSEND, G. B. (Mrs.)

INTERVIEW

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An Interview with Mrs. G. B. Townsend, Mangum, Oklahoma
By - Eunice M. Mayer, Field Worker.
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A native of Missouri, Mrs. G. B. Townsend made the trip to Greer County with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Martin, in 1892. The family settled on a claim southwest of Hollis, where her father operated a stock farm.

Mrs. Townsend had a vivid recollection of the broom weeds settlers used to sweep their homes and school houses. The makeshift served as a satisfactory broom, although it soon wore out.

"I recall many times that we enjoyed rabbit hunts on Saturday evening". Mrs. Townsend said, "Of course, we enjoyed the sport but we also enjoyed the rabbit for Sunday dinner, an even better reason for the hunt."

Women of the early period learned to ride horseback at an early age. Mrs. Townsend still has the saddle which she used during that era.

Barter prevailed during the '90's and many times pioneer women carried a basket of eggs to town to exchange for groceries.

Sunday afternoons "Sings" were enjoyed by the young people who liked to sing.

Most women in the '90's understood the use of fire-arms, and many were good marksmen. Settlers tended to take up land in communities for the common protection against frontier hardships and Indians.

When men of the community left to sell wheat or trade for supplies at Quanah, Texas, women of the community banded together to endure the hardships and possibility of an Indian raid.

There were practically no physicians in this section, and the care of the sick and injured was a province for women.

Mrs. Townsend recalls that the riding skirts worn by pioneer women reached nearly to the ground.

Despite this handicap many were noted for their riding ability.

After her marriage Mrs. Townsend recalls she had tickets to the Dallas Fair. However, only one woman in town possessed a silk dress, and she had loaned the garment to another woman. This woman was already at the Dallas Fair. So the ticket-holder could hardly wait until the woman with the silk dress returned. Incidentally, the owner of the silk dress was Mrs. Mathewson.