

TURNER, DAISY WILLIS.

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Investigator.

Interview with Daisy Willis Turner  
Washington, Oklahoma

### Early Days and Customs of Indians

I was born in Indian Territory December 28, 1876, near Doaksville in the Choctaw Nation. Doaksville was an old trading post and was patronized by all the people.

Though small, I still remember the first time I was allowed to go in with my father for supplies. We received most of our merchandise by bartering for it. We took several ponies, each well laden, to the trading post. We received salt, flour, sugar, etc., for our hides, furs, meat, corn and any other article we might

have to sell or exchange. If the price expected for goods was not received, we took our property back home, though a large amount of graft was carried on by evil proprietors over some of the poor ignorant people who knew no better.

I don't know how to express my feeling but the first time I went to the trading post I felt a desire to see more of a civilized world. I really wanted to break away from my old environments and forge ahead.

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In reality, I, an Indian girl, had ambitions desirable in every American citizen of today.

Another trading post close by was old Fort Towson, a post established right after the Cherokees and Seminoles were moved from Georgia and the Choctaws and Chickasaws from Mississippi. This was a thriving trading post but as Doakville was so much older it was considerably larger.

I am a native of the Indian Territory, being of Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes. My mother was Choctaw and my father was Chickasaw. My ancestors on both sides immigrated from Mississippi. Our tribe was a peaceable one and we felt no desire to pilfer, plunder and war on other people or other tribes. My family lived in a large tepee in summer and a log house in winter. We used one or two ponies to drag the crude wooden plow through the soil.

My father hunted quite a lot, and my mother made us warm clothes and moccasins from the hides, prepared the meat for future use and if there was any surplus it was taken to a trading post. Our clothes were dyed

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with barks and our medicines were made from herbs. In our spare time we wove beautiful rugs that were used for our own comfort and to add beauty to our tepees and houses.

In my early life we lived with my mother's tribe, the Choctaws. I attended an Indian school at Wapamucka. This was a school attended by Indians of all tribes. Here I was enrolled as a Choctaw. Later there was a school established in the Chickasaw Nation for girls only. This school became known as the Collin's Institution. It was located on Clear Boggy Creek, near where Jesse is now. I was transferred from the Choctaw tribe to the Chickasaw tribe and we went to live with my father's people.

A white man named Byrd was governor of the Chickasaw tribe and as he was a cousin to my father he secured a ticket enabling me to enter the Collin's Institution.

This I attended until it was moved to Ardmore where it is still in existence.

Later I received my allotment in the Chickasaw Nation and was married to a white man. I now live at Washington.