



WADE, FLORENCE.

INTERVIEW

#6866

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INTERVIEW WITH FLORENCE WADE  
Route #1, Baxter Springs, Kansas.

My father was Andrew J. Wade who was born in Preble County, Ohio.

My mother was Helen M. Martin who was born in Illinois. Her father was one-quarter Stockbridge and was from New York.

My parents were married at Osawatomie, Kansas, April 20, 1857, by a nephew of John Brown. They settled at West Point, Missouri, not far from Paola, Kansas where they lived till 1864 when they moved to Paola.

CIVIL WAR DAYS

This section was the battleground between the North and the South and it was one side here today and the other here tomorrow. During the war my father said he always had the keys to the store and one day he would sell powder to one side, and the next day he would sell powder from the back door to the other side. Or, one day he sold to Missouri and the next day to Kansas.

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He was also a physican and part of the time he practiced as hospital physican at Paola. He was a tall man being six feet and an inch and was called Slim Jim.

#### THE FAMILY

There were seven of us children, of whom I was the oldest being born April 27, 1878. The others were; Minnie Ha-Ha now Leonard, Martin, deceased, Isa Wade Cardin, deceased, Kittie who married Hugh Owens and lives in Utan, and Harry P., who died in 1878.

#### REMOVAL TO INDIAN TERRITORY

We were adopted into the Peoria Tribe and came to the Peoria Nation in 1873. Our first home was a double log house. Father was a doctor and he used our front room for an office. Here many things happened and many tales were told and once I was asked how it was that we could keep still and never talk. I replied that we were taught to keep still and to keep our faces straight.

I went with him on his calls part of the time and so many of the folks of Peoria, Quapaws and the Miamis still come to me to ask me about some of their people, when they were born or when their parents died, etc.

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EARLY SCHOOLS

After coming here we attended school for awhile at Peoria. At that time there were only three schools in this county; the Peoria; one west in the Drake Settlement known as the Drake School; and Uncle Dick Williams, who lived about three miles west of Miami, hired a teacher, boarded her, and she taught there.

PEORIA BAPTISTE

Peoria Baptiste and Father were close friends. Perhaps my father knew him better than anyone else.

He was born on the Peoria Reservation in Illinois and is buried in the old cemetery here near Peoria. I do not remember the date but it is on the stone at his grave.

Having no son of his own, he took Ed Black who was without parents and educated him. At first he (Black) did not speak English and he always said it was hard to learn. He used to say it took him three days to learn what pigeon was in English. At one time Ed went with one of the Mission helpers over into Missouri and saw so many pigeons and did not know enough English to ask what they were and so had to listen till he found out the word.

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Peoria Baptiste sent Ed Black to a white family in Kentucky to learn English and the white man's ways and after that he sent him to the Catholic College in Saint Louis. Ed had a good education and became the second chief of the tribe under Peoria Baptiste.

Baptiste Peoria was always studying how to better the conditions of his people and it was at the suggestion of Fred Choteau that the Miamias and their tribes were confederated.

Baptiste Peoria made many trips to Washington and on the way to and from he would stop in Saint Louis and visit Madame Bogy (Bozsha) who is well known in the history of early Saint Louis.

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One afternoon, Senator Bogy came to the Peorias and my father in talking to him said, "Baptiste Peoria is expected home today. Do you know where he is?" "Yes," he replied looking up at the sun. "He is now in Madam Bogy's parlor drinking tea." Dr. Lyking, who was a Baptist Minister preached among the Peorias in Kansas but a difference arose between him and Peoria Baptiste over a negro that Lykins tried to get into the Chief's

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home, so Dr. Lykins took his two sons, Wyland (who afterwards claimed to be the founder of Peoria) and Ed, and started to California, but on the way there he died in Colorado. The two boys in their early teens made their way on foot back to the friendly Peorias and when they came, they were barefoot and destitute. They were taken in and cared for, one was given a job in a store and the younger sent to school. They were later adopted by the tribe.

The Muncies from New York bought their lands when they settled near the Peorias in Kansas and did not come to the Indian Territory when the other tribes of Eastern Kansas came. They bought their land near Ottawa, Kansas.

#### EARLY INDIAN TERRITORY LANDMARKS

After the Peorias located, they built a school-house near where the present town of Peoria stands, but the present school at Peoria is not the same school as so many think it is.

Collins was the first teacher.

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It is said that Peoria had the first Post Office in the Indian Territory. The first Post Office was not called Peoria but was named "Kamah." It was established in 1873 at the school-house. Mrs Rebecca Laughlin who is living near Seneca, Missouri, was the first clerk in the office.

Dr. Leeman came in 1873 and Mike Power's father moved here in 1875.

The Pooler Ferry on the Neosho at the Military Crossing was established by Pooler in 1874.

Rock-Creek Crossing, one mile southeast of Lincolnville, was a well known landmark in those days. It had a large living spring and here so many people camped.

The cattlemen bunched their cattle here preparatory to shipping them through Baxter Springs. Hunt Hill where the soldiers were stationed north of the Sunnyside School-house was named for an Arkansas quapaw. Crawfish Hill which is east of Lincolnville is the place where the James Boys and their companions stopped and met the men the day that they robbed the Baxter Springs Bank.

It was on the west side of the hill that the James Boys took their stand and turned the officers back.

The old Quapaw Agency Building, which was a double log house, stood a quarter of a mile from the present home of Antone Greenback. The remains of an old orchard is still to be seen. There was a gate in the rail fence, and in front and on either side of the gate there was a tall persimmon tree. These persimmons were the largest I ever saw and had only one seed.

\* The Quapaws and Senecas furnished Union Troops during the war. An old Quapaw woman once said to me: "When the Blue Coats came we gave them everything; when the Gray came, they took what we had that they wanted, and by the time that the war was over, no one had anything."

One of the Quapaw girls, Mary Choteau, or Za-me as she was called, married a clerk at the Quapaw Agency when she was fourteen, which was in 1868. They had one child but it died and he remained here till I think it was four years; then was moved and when he told her he must leave the Quapaw Agency, she told him to go, but she would remain

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with her people as she thought it was best. He tried to reason with her and told her that they had been happy and he had lived among her people and she could live happily among his but still she refused, and sent him away without her. Later in talking to me she said. " It was best. He was the best man I ever knew and I will always be unhappy but it is best."

Another time some of us went to a medicine show when we were in Paola and they were supposed to have a Modoc Indian with the show and when we saw him, we knew him as it was George Bearskin of Wyandotte. Some one of the crowd spoke to him, so he knew that he was recognized. He went to the manager and told him that he would have to quit and when he asked him why, he replied that he was getting too close to home and the people knew him.

Away back in 1953, Chief Spicer of the Senecas came to the Teoria Reservation and said that he wanted to hire

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a governess for his children in Indian Territory. Madame Angeline Chartier, who had three small children, accepted the position and agreed to go. One of her neighbors returning from Washington was told of her intention and he went to her and told her that he had a friend named Williamson, who lived near Seneca, Missouri, and insisted on giving her a letter to him and told her if she ever needed a friend in the new country to go to this Williamson. She came and brought her three small children. That fall Spicer went to Washington and left her with his son, who was insane. Becoming alarmed, she carried wood and water into the house with the provisions, and she put her children in the house and locked them in and rode horseback to Missouri where she found Mr. Williamson. He returned with her in a wagon and took them to his home.

I was the bridesmaid at the Peery-McNaughton wedding but I didn't know that I was to be. My sister Minnie was to have been but she was not at home and Mrs. McNaughton

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refused to be married without a bridesmaid, so Mac came to me and said "Florence you will have to stand up with Clara. Minnie is gone and she says she won't be married without one." So to have the wedding, I did. This was November 1, 1888, I still have the old printed invitation that I received to this wedding.

#### THE FIRST TERRITORIAL FAIR

In company with Peter Labadie and his family, Mrs. Answorth, Charlie Labadie, Edward H. Black and his family I attended the first Territorial Fair at Muskogee. We traveled by the line road to Mayesville. Just after we started we came in contact with a mover who had his wife and six children and was starting across the Territory by the road crossed by the cattle trails and on which the greenheads were so bad. Knowing that the greenheads would worry the children so much, one of our party suggested to him that he travel along with us the way we were going. Some of the party suggested that he might be an undesirable character and might harm us, but I said that any man that has a wife and six children is harmless.

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While at this Fair we met Mr. Scott and on learning that we were from near the Onapaw country he asked us if we knew Capt. Lumbar who had been stationed here before that time. On being told that we knew him, he remarked that Captain Lumbar was the dearest man who ever lived.

#### FRIENDS

In those days my father, being a doctor, knew the people of the near-by tribes as well as those of the Peorias. John Early, one of the Councilmen of the Ottawas, was another friend of his. Whenever you met Mr. Early he was sure to say with a smile, "Come, let's eat." It was his joke. Grandma Wind of the tribe, who lived to be 116, was another well known person. She was always busy and jolly. One summer just before her death she made straw hats for the men and walked to church which was a half a mile from where she lived and at a time when she was using one crutch.

A boy of William Landadie was the first person to be buried in the Miami Cemetery after it was started.