

WALNER, FRANCES

INTERVIEW

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Field Worker: Maurice R. Anderson  
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BIOGRAPHY OF Mrs. Frances Walner, Chickasaw  
Wynnewood, Oklahoma

BORN Mount Vernon, Indian Territory  
1866

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Story told by Mrs. Frances "Stewart" Walner, born at Mount Vernon, Indian Territory in 1866. I was married to John H. Walner in 1883.

He was the son of Doctor Wm. Walner who bought the Cherley Ranch north of Cherokee Town, Wynnewood. Dr. Walner owned nearly all the buildings in Cherokee Town, with the exception of the government stage barn. In speaking of Dr. Walner, I only knew him a few years, he died in 1884. I believe, he was born in Richmond, Virginia and was just a young man when he came to the Indian Territory, he married Miss Susan Carter, a Chickasaw Indian.

Dr. Walner lived at Mt. Vernon for a while. It was at Mt. Vernon that I met his son John H. Walner, whom I later married. Dr. Walner owned a large ranch at Paoli, Indian Territory, he was in the mercantile business at Caddo, Oklahoma with Capt. Welch. He died at Cherokee Town and was buried at Paoli.

His son-in-law James Dulin operated the ranch at Paoli, for Dr. Walner. I remember James Dulin called "Jim" quite well, he was a fine cattle manager. Also a heavy drinker.

My husband, John H. Walner, owned a grocery store with his father, at Cherokee Town after his fathers death he operated this store until the Santa Fe Railroad came through.

The Railroad missed Cherokee Town, so about five miles south of Cherokee Town, they started a town and called it Wynnewood. My husband built the first store there, that was in 1887.

The grass was waist high where the town stands today. In 1888 I have seen car after car loaded with corn, shipped away, it was only worth ten cents a bushel. I have seen corn piled up on each side of the road for miles, lots of people used it for wood.

John H. Walner was a United States Marshall, he died in 1905, and is buried in the Wynnewood Cemetery.

Speaking of James Dulin, I have heard my husband say that, James "Jim" Dulin, used to live on Blue Creek about twelve miles west of Caddo, Oklahoma. In 1878 Mr. Dulin moved to Laoli, Indian Territory, taking with him about four hundred head of cattle, several horses and about one hundred and fifty or two hundred head of hogs, which I believe Dr. Walner was half owner. Mr. Dulin settled on Dr. Walner ranch at Laoli, Oklahoma, later in life James Dulin was the owner of about four miles square of land in the Washita River bottom, south of Laoli, Oklahoma.

Mrs. Frances "Stewart" Walner now lives at Wynnewood, Oklahoma.

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