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Charline M. Culbertson,
Investigator,
November 18, 1937.

Interview with Alice Mathews Washington.
McAlester, Oklahoma.

I was born in Johnson County, Arkansas, in 1872.
My parents were Louis and Nancy Hartley. Father is
buried in the Union Cemetery in Fort Smith, while
Mother is buried at Mansfield, Arkansas.

Father fought in the Civil War for four years.
He was with the Union Army.

My husband and I came direct from Arkansas to the
Indian Territory and located in the Choctaw Nation at
Hartshorne, which was a mining district. Our trip was
made by railroad. It was then the Choctaw Railroad
Company and is today the Rock Island Railroad. Our
fare was 2¢ a mile.

Our reason for coming to the Territory was that
my father who had preceded us here sent for my husband
to come as he had secured work for him as a blacksmith
at the Number One Mine at Hartshorne. This was the
first mine at Hartshorne. There was one other mine
called Number Five.

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After we arrived at Hartshorne my husband began building a two-room box house with a hall between. There were no houses for people to live in and ^{it} was necessary for them to build.

We did all of our trading at what was called the Company Store as that was where the miners bought their supplies. There were the Company Store, Baker and Reed store, the Katagan Hotel and the livery stable operated by a Mr. Mathis at Hartshorne. The livery stable was located where the city jail is today.

When we first came to Hartshorne there was no church but we soon organized one. A building was constructed where the Baptist Church is today.

The school was three blocks south of the main street in a frame building.

My closest neighbor was a daughter of Chief Green McCurtain. Her husband, Semion Hampton, was killed over a political dispute. He was a big land holder and owned most all the land where Hartshorne is built today.

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We killed lots of wild deer and turkey in the mountains two or three miles from Hartshorne. Many times we have killed a turkey and built a fire in the woods and fried it there.

We caught lots of catfish in Clear Lake below Gowen Mountain.

I have been to the house where Belle Starr was supposed to have camped. My husband also ran onto the Dalton boys while hunting in the mountains near Wilburton. They did not attempt to harm him but went on their way.

There were lots of wild beasts in the woods near Hartshorne such as panthers. A meat peddler started to town one day and a panther chased him. The peddler threw meat out of his wagon until the panther stopped.

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