

WATKINS, IDA B.

INTERVIEW

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Charline M. Culbertson,  
Investigator,  
Dec. 4, 1938.

An Interview With Mrs. Ida Watkins,  
Canadian, Oklahoma.

I was born at Appanoose County, Iowa, in the year of  
1861.

My parents were Oliver and Mary Scott. Mother was  
buried some place in Kansas. My father fought in the Civil  
War and was killed in action and we never knew where he was  
buried.

My husband and I, with two children, came to the Indian  
Territory in 1890. We located in the Choctaw Nation at  
Canadian. Mr. Watkins had preceded us here and was working  
as foreman on the M. K. & T. Railroad. He soon sent us a  
pass on the M. K. & T. which was our transportation from  
Independence, Missouri.

~~We had room and board at what was then the Mize Hotel.~~

Besides the hotel there was seven general merchandise stores.  
I only recall two of the operators who were Messrs. Burton and  
Mitchell and J. T. Phillips.

School was held in the Baptist church which stands  
today.

Fred Houlbert was the school teacher and Brother York  
was our minister.

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I had no personal friends among the Indians; however, they would come to town to do their trading. When they did so they would camp in the street. They would build a big fire in the middle of the street and it would seem to be sort of a celebration.

I recall the first picnic they ever had here on the hill on the west side of town. They all spread their lunch together and had an enjoyable time.

I have no old relics other than a vase which I have handed down to my daughter. This vase is over one hundred years old and was given to me by my mother.