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Field Worker: Mary D. Dorward
April 29-30, 1937

Interviewed with Louis Medlen
1624 East Admiral Boulevard
Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Date of birth 1870
In Kansas

From A Personal Interview with the Subject.

Subject was born in Kansas along the Caney river just across the border from old Indian Territory. With parents, two brothers, and five sisters he came to Indian Territory in 1888, settling twelve miles north of where Bartlesville now stands. His mother was part Cherokee and had come from Tennessee. Through her he had sufficient Indian blood to have entitled him to enrollment by the Dawes Commission, but was told that due to the fact that she had come to Indian Territory after the great exodus from the eastern states he was ineligible for an allotment.

Knew Emmet Dalton well, but recalled no particular incident with regard to him. Was a friend of United States Marshal Gibson, who once promised him a trip to Fort Smith. Gibson frequently had trouble with bootleggers, and once after arresting two young fellows for selling whiskey, promised to take Medlen with him as

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guard when he took them to Fort Smith. Before they had scarcely more than started, however, one of the criminals rode ahead to a farm house, rode back behind the barn and shot himself, thus spoiling Medlen's trip to Ft. Smith.

In spite of the fact that there were so many bandits or outlaw gangs abroad, residents never locked their doors—homes were never molested, while cattle rustlers never bothered the cattle of a poor man. It was only the big cattle barons whose herds were raided. Texas cattle grazed northward across Indian Territory to shipping points in Kansas, starting in the early summer for the trip so that by the time they reached their destination they would be nice and fat. Mr. Medlen states he has seen herds fully three miles long and one hundred yards wide.

He was prepared to make the run when the Cherokee Strip was opened but was prevented at the last moment. Had new hay in the field just mowed when a rain and hail storm came up and he was compelled to remain and take care of the hay.

Lived among the Shawnees in the southern part of the state for a while. Can always tell a Shawnee by the fact that he points with his chin instead of using his hand.
