

WILLIAMS, NORA A.

INTERVIEW

#8909

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Interviewer, Jasper H. Mead,  
October 11, 1937.

Interview with Mrs. Nora A. Williams,  
Chickasha, Oklahoma,  
523 Penn Avenue.

Born February 13, 1856

Parents John Mounce, Missouri.  
Margaret Carroll, Indiana.

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My name is Mrs. Nora A. Williams. I was born February 13, 1856, eighty-three years ago, in Missouri.

I came to the Indian Territory forty-two years ago, and the first place we stopped was at Marietta. It was a very small place then with three or four stores and a blacksmith shop. There were no sidewalks, not even plank walks. There was one small log house, which was used for a church and school house. This building had two windows and two doors in it. There was a window on each side and a door in each end. We could hardly have church sometimes because the young men and boys of the community would throw rocks through the window and knock out the lights.

I sent five of my children to school here. This cost me \$1.25 apiece each month and school generally lasted for five

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or six months a year.

The Santa Fe Railroad came through Marietta on its way to Fort Worth, Texas.

There were lots of Choctaw Indians around there and lots of what they called "Squaw men." People said that most of these white men married Indian women for their land.

I lived in Marietta when the Indians, who were driven out of Mississippi, came through there on their way to the land that the Government intended for them to settle up.

The land around Marietta was mostly ranch land with very little farming and most of the work consisted of ranch work, which paid \$30.00 per month with board and room.

The water around Marietta came from dug wells and springs and there was one spring that they called Oil Spring. Oil would come out with the water and you could skim the oil back and drink the water. It was good tasting water and the Indians said that it was healthful.

There were lots of deer, wild turkey and wild horses around Marietta and there was plenty of cattle that came through there on their way to Kansas. I have seen herds of cattle crowd

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around our house. They would crowd and push against the house until we thought that they would crush the house in.

There were many outlaws who worked between Marietta and Admore.

I taught school in Fort Worth, Texas, for seven years and I saw the first railroad train that pulled into Fort Worth.