

HARRISON, C. C. INTERVIEW.

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Fieldworker: Maurice R. Anderson
March 1, 1937

BIOGRAPHY OF Mr. C. C. Harrison
Pauls Valley, Okla.

BORN Grundy County, Tenn., 1853.

PARENTS Father: Miles H. Harrison, (Alabama).
Mother: Mary Ann Lambert (Alabama).

Mr. C. C. Harrison's story:

My schooling was in a log school house in Grundy County, Tennessee. I came to Indian Territory in 1888. I stopped at Wynnewood, Okla., then Indian Territory. I did not have a penny to my name. I went to work for a Mr. McGee, loading corn. Mr. McGee was selling corn to someone in Austin, Texas. He got ten cents a bushel (for the corn) loaded on cars. Corn was so cheap I have seen people burn it for wood.

I went from Wynnewood to Hennepin, Indian Territory. I taught the first school there; that was in 1889. I charged one dollar a scholar, but if they didn't have the dollar, I would take corn-meal, meat, or anything they could give. One man had a horse he wanted thirty five dollars for. I took the horse in payment for his children's schooling. That was the first horse I owned after coming to the Indian Territory.

I was married in Texas and my wife died when our two sons were very small. I taught the first school at Elmore City, Okla., and saw the first person buried in the Elmore cemetery. It was a man who had been killed at Paul's Valley, Oklahoma. I do not remember his name.

I helped get the post office at Brady, Oklahoma, and I taught school there four years. I moved west of the Clayton Ranch and also taught school there. It was called Pumpkin College and is about eight miles southwest of Pauls Valley, Okla. It was a log school house, and had logs hewn down for seats. I used the Blue Back spellers and I taught the 'A B C'S ' and the Primer. My two sons went to this school.

In 1900, I moved to Adell Post Office at Green Head Prairie in Pottawatomie County, and lived there two years; moved one mile north of there, close to the Jim Salvage place and stayed there one year; then I bought a place four and one half miles northeast of Saint Louis, Okla. We lived in a tent there for a while.

That fall I built a two-story log house. I have seen lots of turkey there. We raised lots of corn, peanuts and cotton. I lived there until 1920 when I moved to Pauls Valley, my present home.