

WOOTEN, R. L. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW

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An Interview with Mrs. R. L. Wooten, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

By - W. T. Holland, Investigator.

March 24, 1938.

I live at 34 North 1st, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

My grandfather, John Howard Tatum, established and conducted a Baptist Mission School for the Indians near Colbert, north of Denison, Texas. He lived in Denison just after the Civil War and was active there as a teacher and preacher. He had two daughters, Mary Tatum and Sarah Tatum, teachers. So, realizing the need of a school, he came over into Oklahoma Territory, north of Denison and established a school known as the Bloomfield Academy. Here he and his daughters taught until the building burned. I don't know just how long they taught nor when the buildings burned. I understand though that the teaching was all done by Grandfather personally, that is he didn't have any assistance from the Government or church that I knew of. However, it is possible that friends contributed to the work.

This school was known as a Mission school and was for the Indian children.

I was located north of Red River but not so far away, and there was a ferry across the river there and a well traveled trail or road at that time from Denison, north. It was traveled by cattlemen and their herds in bringing cattle into the Oklahoma and Indian Territories.