

W. A. Meek, 525 West Tahlequah Avenue, Vinita, Oklahoma. Born, November 27, 1880, near Vinita, Indian Territory. Parents, Abram and Brilla Meek. Father, white, mother, Indian (Cherokee).

MR. MEEK'S STORY:

My father came to Oklahoma from Illinois when he was a boy, and mother was born here.

"The old Pheasant Hill Church & School, was built about 1885 by the Presbyterian Church and the neighbors of the vicinity; among the neighbors participating were N. B. Chamberlain, Arther Chamberlain, E. S. Southerland and Abram Meek (my father). It and Timpson Chopper were the only rural church & school houses in Craig County, for several years. It had a large bell on it which could be heard about 4 miles when the weather was clear. In about 1909 two men were employed to do some work on the bell tower, and they fell to the ground and were killed. I was reared near Big Cabin Creek near the ford which was on the main Vinita & Coffeyville road or highway. George Green and his lady friend Miss Emma Breedlove of Fairland, Okla started to cross at this ford in a buggy. Miss Breedlove was drowned. Also one horse. Geo. Green hung to a willow tree. My father swam his horse across the Creek Threw him a rope, and then pulled him out of the Creek with his horse. This was about 5 P M. People searched all night and about noon the next day John Butler found her about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile down the Creek. Her gold

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watch new [sic] was found, I presume this was about 87.

My father made the strip or 89<sup>th</sup> run on this same sorrel mare.

He did not get a farm, but got a town lot.

"Stayed a while, decided it was worthless and come on home. It later become very valuable as it was in the heart of the City"