

CASTELL, MINNIE.

INTERVIEW

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Charline M. Culbertson,
Investigator.
April 29, 1938.

Interview with Mrs. Minnie Casteel
East Morris, North McAlester, Oklahoma.

I was born in Van Buren County, Arkansas, in the year of 1878. My parents were Rufus A. and Eliza Murphy.

We came to the Indian Territory in 1883 in a covered wagon from Fort Smith, Arkansas, locating on the farm of Montubbie or Dave Mishie, a full blood Choctaw. This place was about ten miles east of McAlester in the Carbon district. Our home was a three-room box building with a fireplace.

I came here with my step-father, M. L. Crow, who wanted to farm. He farmed only about thirty-five acres and this was scattered about in little patches. He planted only corn and cotton.

Most of our trading was done at McAlester and Krebs. South McAlester had not been built at this time and the depot was located in North McAlester, the agent being W. G. Keys. South McAlester was only a few fuller patches and there were only two houses there. The only hotel at North McAlester was the "Elk House" operated by Settle. There was the Osage Trading Company and Krebs was a little mining town three miles east of McAlester. The other store in North McAlester was operated by

C. C. Rooks. Both were general merchandise stores. The Presbyterian mission school was in the church located where the fifth ward school is today. A Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Adams were teachers and a Mr. Doyle principal. The school was an ordinary frame building.

The Choctaw Indians formed a line of battle and divided a short time after I came here. The trouble was over electing their Chief. One side formed on the hill west of North McAlester and the other on the east side. However, they came to an agreement before a shot was fired.

Fritz Settle had the first meat market in North McAlester and it was put in when they were laying the M. K. & T. Railroad.

The first store in South McAlester was owned by Ridenhower. It was a boxed up room with tent stretched over the roof. It was located on what is now West Choctaw.

The full blood Indians lived in the woods near McAlester. Their houses were all log huts, most of them of only one room; however some had side rooms. They had no windows, had slabs for a roof with poles over the slabs.