

CHANDLER, VIOLA.

INTERVIEW

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Nettie Cain, Investigator
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An Interview with Mrs. Viola Chandler,
Wewoka, Oklahoma.
206 South Eufaula St.

I was born December 18, 1873, in Alabama. My father, Nick Mosley, and my mother, Millie Mosley, were born in Virginia.

Father was a slave and my grandmother on Mother's side was also a slave. My grandmother's master, a white man, was Mother's father. The Master, Gene, sold my grandmother but raised Millie, saying his own flesh could not be sold as a slave.

I came to the Chickasaw Nation, August, 1897, and located near Marietta; then one year later I moved to the Seminole Nation on a farm near Wewoka.

When I moved here there were no churches but I soon organized a Sunday School in my own home for the colored people. I soon had several in attendance; we used old quarterlies that I had had for several years.

My home became too small for the Sunday School; an old Indian lady, Aunt Lesser Bowleg, had a large corn crib made of logs. She told me we could have the building



to meet in, so on the following Monday morning I arose before daybreak and moved all the corn from the building, then we went to the woods and cut logs and split them for seats, made a table from a box and the new location was ready for worshipping the next Sunday. I finally got the aid of a publishing Company and wrote them about ordering the literature and we soon had \$15.00 in donations.

We then organized a colored Methodist Church which was the first Methodist Church organized for the colored people.

My husband, E. Chandler, and I owned a grocery store for about twenty years in Wewoka in the colored section. My husband died in 1923.

I make and sell quilts and one among the number I have made is a picket fence in the center with eight horses, at the gate is a man dressed in blue denim leading a horse. I started to name it the Hoover quilt but decided as Hoover was then President I would call it the "Government Farm".