

CRAVATT, NELLIE.

INTERVIEW.

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Etta D. Mason
Investigator
January 24, 1938.

Interview with Mrs. Nellie Cravatt,
Daisy, Oklahoma.

My father was George W. McCarthy and my mother was Jane Spacy. My father came from Kentucky to the Indian Territory when I was small and I grew up with the Indians but married a white man the first time I married.

After my first husband died I married Willie Fulson, a full-blood Choctaw, and I lived as the Indians lived and liked their ways much better than I did the ways of the white people. Fulson and I lived at an old Indian Mission near Pauls Valley; there was an old cemetery at the mission.

Food was very cheap; the Indians would bring in fat hogs and sell them for 2¢ a pound. We dried our beef by first soaking the meat in brine, after which it was taken out and hung over hickory smoke till dried. We dried our corn, then pounded the kernel for bread. I think that the old Indian sour bread was better than any bread that we now make.

After some years we moved near Shake Rag in the Creek Nation. There I have seen Belle Starr, the outlaw, and her daughter. I met

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the daughter at dances; she carried two revolvers in holsters fastened to each side of her belt. At one dance that I did not attend two men were killed. Belle had them carried to an old outhouse and their bodies laid on boards, then ordered everyone back to the dance floor and forced them to go on with the dancing till morning.

A few years later my Indian husband died and I married a mixed-blood and moved to Daisy, and here I reared my family.

The whole country was covered with young pine trees at that time but the sawmills soon had the most of the trees made into lumber.

I have attended the court here at the old county court house, and have known many noted Indians and Federal officers.