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Negro  
Creek Freedwoman  
Opening-Cherokee Strip  
Perry

CREW, MAMIE ELIZABETH. INTERVIEW.

Carl R. Sherwood  
Field Worker  
May 18, 1937

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Interview with Mamie Elizabeth  
Crew, 327 Kalamazoo, Muskogee.  
(Creek Freedwoman)

Daughter of Joe Grayson who came to the Indian Territory from Texas in 1879 and located on Hickory Creek, south of Coffeyville, Kansas.

My mother was Lucy Twinkins and my parents were married in Texas, and to this Union were born five children, Jimmie, Priscilla, Joe, Amanda and Mamie. I made the run at the age of 17 on foot in the Cherokee Strip and staked my claim inside the city limits of Perry, Oklahoma, and the surveyors came along later on and in their survey they gave me one city block. My mother followed behind me on that run with wagon and team, with tents and other household goods.

Three years later, I married M. P. Crew and we lived in tents for several years before we were able to build a 12 x 14, one-room house, later we added another room, doing this from time to time, until I had a five-room home, and opened a store in one of the rooms and made a comfortable living in this way. I sold my place in Perry and came to Muskogee in 1906.

There were hundreds who made the run on foot. Some were lucky and others not. Roy Huffman was some

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kind of a government soldier and helped line the people up at Guthrie to make the run on the morning of September 16, 1893.

My father, Joe Grayson, had a large cattle ranch in Robinson County, Texas, and drove cattle to the Indian Territory and sold to different cattlemen of this country. My father went into Hurn to cash a large check which he had received from selling some of his cattle; after cashing this check he placed the money which was about nine hundred dollars in his buggy and started home, which was a distance of about fifteen miles, and arrived home safe with the money which he hid in the smoke house and a few minutes after he had gone to bed some outlaws rode up to the house and asked if Joe Grayson was at home, and my mother answered yes, but he was very tired; the man outside told my father to come out and show them the way out of this part of the country and as my father was kind and liked to help everyone, he came out and rode with them about a mile from the house; then they stopped and bound my father around the neck, hands and feet with a rope; some stood

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guard while the others came back to the house to find the money they knew he had when he left town. They could not find the money and rode off, and the next morning the cow hands found my father dead, choked to death. And after this my mother moved us children to the I<sub>n</sub>dian Territory.