

DILBECK, ALVARADO TAYLOR

INTERVIEW

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Robert H. Boatman, Interviewer

October 11, 1937

Interview with Alvarado Taylor Dilbeck,
Blanchard, Oklahoma

I was born July 22, 1870, in the Choctaw Nation, and am a member of the Choctaw Indian Tribe.

My father came from Mississippi in the removal of the Choctaws from Mississippi to the Indian Territory.

My mother was a white woman.

I was born and reared among the Choctaw people, as my father belonged to the tribe.

The Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes were always very friendly toward each other.

The principal crops raised by the Choctaw Indians were wheat and corn, which was called "Tom Fuller." Corn crops consisted of from one to five acres and corn meal was made from the corn by beating the corn with stones, of course this was in the very early times.

About 1880, the Choctaw Indians began raising some cotton in the Choctaw Nation. Very small crops were raised. The cotton, when picked, was stored away and then the seed would be picked out of it by hand. Each seed was very carefully cared for so that we might have

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them to plant another crop. The lint was carded by hand into rolls, after which it was spun into thread by hand, then woven into cloth by the old hand loom.

Indian dyes and paints were made from weeds or herbs. After the weed had bloomed the tops of them were gathered and boiled. Different weeds made different colors. Copperas was added to the mixture to set the dye.

Charles LaFlore was head of the Choctaw Commission at Kiewa. This commission was to look after the welfare of the Choctaw Indians. At one time each member of the tribe was paid \$109.00 per head by the commission. After the Choctaw Commission, then came what was known as the Dawes Commission, with headquarters at Atoka. Captain Stanley was head of the committee at Atoka.

Under the Dawes Commission all Indians of the Choctaw tribe and other tribes, both male and female, were to be registered so as to receive an allotment of land. Each person had to be positive of their tribe membership and had to be identified by some person who knew they were of the said or sworn tribe.

In an agreement made with the Government upon their

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removal from Mississippi, the Indians were to receive payment of certain amount of money in script. This was received every so often, at regular times, and was used by the tribe as their standard of currency. The script had the value of twenty-five to thirty-five cents per dollar, although in some parts of the territory it was of more value.

I married Mr. J. L. Dilbeck in 1890, and have made my home since that time in what was then known as the Chickasaw Nation. My allotment of land was in the Chickasaw Nation.

I now live at Blanchard.