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Field Worker: Charline M. Culbertson
April 28, 1937

Interview with James Arthur Doyle
Kiowa, Oklahoma
(4 miles south)

Born August 19, 1863
In Missouri

Name of parents:

Father, Dock Doyle
Missouri
Mother, Alla Doyle
Indiana

EARLY DAYS IN INDIAN TERRITORY.

Mr. James Arthur Doyle came to Indian Territory in 1878, a week before Christmas. They located three miles north of Rogers Station, which is close to what is now Wesley. He moved here with his parents, Dock and Alla Doyle, and six brothers and four sisters. Their purpose was to farm, and his father bought a small place which was just a Tom Fuller patch; however, later they moved near Limestone Gap, and soon after that, four miles south of Kiowa. His father cultivated fifteen acres of land with one oxen. Their nearest neighbors were eight or ten miles away.

It was necessary for them to go to Atoka to get their corn ground and they went to Pogy depot to get their wheat ground. Everything was very cheap in those

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days. Flour was \$2.00 a hundred pounds, a two year old yearling was \$10.00. They would sell according to their age not weight. Dressed hogs were two and one-half cents a pound. Mr. Doyle states he remembers selling a two hundred and five pound hog for \$5.00--that was in the year 1887. He tells of an experience of driving hogs from Rogers Station to Stringtown, which took them all day and sold them for two cents a pound. It cost nothing to keep them so, therefore, it was a clear profit.

Men's boots were sold for \$2.00 and shoes for \$2.25. They raised their own tobacco. Coffee was bought for \$6.00 a hundred pounds. Everything was bought in large quantity. Mr. Doyle says sugar was never used on the table as we do today unless they had company or was having pie. He remembers of going to the saw mills quite often and taking butter and beans and selling them and then going on to get a bill of groceries. All fences were made of rails.

Mr. Doyle is not of Indian blood, but says the Indians were peaceable, honest, truthful and religious. They would be able to leave their tools in the woods where they would never be moved. They never had to lock

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their houses. He states the latch string was always hanging on the door, as the old saying goes.

They would have preaching once every month.

The first school in that vicinity was the Bryce Valley school, not in use today. It was a subscription school.

One instance of a little controversy was that of two men trying to establish a hog ranch. One was trying to run the other out of business, which came to a dispute that one had stolen from the other. Not having a law, the people had to appoint a sheriff, his deputies, lawyers and three judges to hold court. The result was that they didn't prove either one was guilty.

Everybody went to church respectfully and attended with much interest. They had several churches in that vicinity--a Methodist, a Baptist, and a Presbyterian church. Every summer they would have their camp meetings. Each group would bring their minister. Parson Requel from Muskogee, Rev. Dickerson from Durant, Rev. Tacker, who was blind, and also Rev. Bryce.

Mr. John Doyle, brother of James Doyle, joined the Masonic lodge in 1876. He says his brother sold \$1300.00 worth of wheat in the year of 1878. Little

ground hog thrashers were used and a fanning mill was used to clean the wheat. A foot drop machine was used to cut it. It took five men to handle it and one man to drive it. Approximately thirty days were taken to cut and prepare it to be sold.

Snakes were very plentiful during that time.

It was a common occurrence to run up to a six foot snake but no one was ever bitten.

Hired help was paid seventy five cents a day for any kind of work. Man with a horse was paid sometimes \$1.50.

Mr. Doyle has a son by the name of Gerald Doyle, who is postmaster at Wesley at the present time, close to the same place where his great-grandfather, Barton Doyle, was first postmaster in 1873.

They didn't cure their meats. They would kill fresh meat along as they wanted them. They were not bothered with flies in those days, but were handicapped with mosquitoes, which caused a great deal of sickness.

Mr. Doyle went to school in a little log house down on the branch about one half mile from where he lives at the present time. There were about 15 children who attended. The children called it the Academy.