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Florence Duke,
Interviewer,
August 10, 1937.

An Interview with Mr. R.M. Muncy,
Keota, Oklahoma.

Early Days

My father, Levie Muncy, of English descent, was born April 19, 1834, near Manchester, Clay County, Kentucky. He emigrated to Madison County, Arkansas, near Huntsville, and later came to the Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory, and settled near Skullyville. My father passed away at the age of 82 years, while living near Keota in Haskell County and is buried in the Keota cemetery.

My mother, Jennie Wilson Muncy, of English descent was born November 30, 1873, also near Manchester, Kentucky.

Father and Mother were married in Kentucky. Ten children were born to them, only two of whom are living at this time. My mother passed away at the age of 82, in 1916, and is buried in the Keota cemetery.

I was born July 25, 1861, in Kentucky, and came to the Indian Territory with my parents at the age of twenty-three.

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The first school I attended, a small room log hut, was in Kentucky and was known as the White River Chapel. During those days we used logs cut half in two, using part for desk, and part for the seat. We studied an old blue back speller and reader.

We left Kentucky in covered wagons, coming that way as far as Memphis, Tennessee, where we caught a boat, the Mary Ann. We came to St. Paul, Arkansas, and stayed there several years before coming to the Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory. When we first arrived here there were but very few white people. We rented and leased land from the Indians under a permit law. At this time most of the people lived in log cabins. The people of this community all went in together and built schoolhouses out of logs, and these buildings were also used for church purposes.

During these early days there were quite a few outlaws in this country. At one time four of us boys visited in the home of John Smith, near Tucker Town. While we were all sitting around the fire talking, after getting the kiddies to bed, we heard some one step up on the front

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porch and knock on the door. Mr. Smith went to the door and asked the four men there to come in. As they entered the door they told us to put up our hands. Doing so, they robbed us of \$45.00 in cash. Instead of going on, they took all of us out on a prairie several miles away from home before letting us go. Until this day we do not know just who they were.

As there were mostly Indians in the Territory in the early days the white people attended lots of their get-togethers. We would attend their big camp meetings, where they gathered and remained sometimes for weeks, always serving lots of barbecue and Indian dishes.

I can remember quite well a ball game which took place between Panther Creek in Skullyville County and Old Sans Bois. The ball game was going swell when Green McCurtain, chief of the Choctaws, and Henry Choate, who was playing for Skullyville, opposite Chief McCurtain's team, got in a friendly argument which ended in a free for all. At this time they claimed Choate was part negro and Chief McCurtain didn't want his men playing against him. Before

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everything was finally settled, McCurtain shot Choate in the arm. The ball game was then all called off.

I was married to Etta Ann Swaink, of English descent, in 1885. She was born in Clark County, Arkansas. We were married at Wallsburg, Arkansas, by the Baptist minister of that community. I lost my wife in 1901 while living near Shady Point. She is buried in the Shady Point cemetery.

Two years later I was married to Sallie Switzer, of English descent. She was born November 30, 1883, near Cameron in the Choctaw Nation. We were married at Fort Smith, Arkansas, and then came to Haskell County, settling near Keota where we have lived up to this day and time.

I was deputy under Luke Allen, the first sheriff of Haskell County, after statehood. I was the first officer to arrest a man in Haskell County and place him in jail. Mart Hickman was the jailor during that time. The fellow whom I arrested was a Mr. Whitlow who was known as a great whisky peddler.

In the year of 1912 I was elected county commissioner

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of Haskell County and served until 1920. I was elected three times, defeated once, and one time appointed by Governor Bill Murray to finish the unexpired term of W. W. McKinley. After going out of office as commissioner I moved on the farm again at Keota. The following year I was appointed jailor of Haskell County, under Sheriff Jim Keese and served for two terms. Then I was appointed by Governor Murray to serve on the Excise Board. After serving one term on the board I was appointed to hold the same place by Judge Ben. W. Belew, District Judge, and I am still a member of the board.