

(This is Bob Miller and Boyce Timmons in the Walter R. Hamilton home in El Reno, Oklahoma. We are going to visit with Mr. Jess Rowledge and let him tell us something about his personal life and his relationship with his tribe. Some of the stories he has told us today and which I think are very interesting, and I hope he can remember the stories he has told us because they are worth recording. So, I'm going to ask Mr. Rowledge just to kinda visit with us here, and talk about anything he wants to talk about. I was interested, particularly, in the origin of his name, and something about the Arapaho name and what they called themselves in the old days. Mr. Rowledge, you can just start off now and visit with us here.)

EARLY HISTORY OF THE ARAPAHO TRIBE

Well, it's good that you gentlemen came over this nice day of Easter in my son-in-law's home, and of the family I've visited and we have this afternoon to ourselves, free to discuss and talk over the problems that you are interested in. As to my family background, my folks on my father's side came from Montana otherwise known as "Black Feet Gros Ventre." Out of the "Gros Ventre" stock, my dad was originally from the Arapaho. Now the "Gros Ventre" at the time known as the Arapaho, branched off from Arapaho during some hard winter, when game was short. They, of course, depended on buffalo, elk and deer. Got their meat in the winter, so they took a portion of it. They drifted north to some other triae, became affiliated with the Assiniboin, which is a Siouxan stock. There they lived with them. Had plenty of game, and they're still with them today. But, of course, marriages and this and that started and that's where my father was born and reared. He came north in early in life with two sisters. One married a Frenchman nationality and they came south to the Arapaho country in the Black Hills in South Dakota and on into Wyoming. And my father's other sister married an Arapaho chief who was raised there. And how I got my name, was from that time on he was out with his brother-in-law's who used him as a