

T-426

May 2, 1969

Index side A, recording time 25 minutes; interview time 1½ hours.

Informant: Saugee R. Grigsby, 73-year-old Cherokee,
England Hollow, Adair County, Oklahoma

Subject: Many of the locations and settlements of these Adair County areas are known by the names of the hollows and Hills. It is in England Hollow, far removed for the traffic and hurry of this day that Mr. Grigsby has lived these many years. This Hollow was named for Lincoln England, one of the early settlers in the Cherokee Nation. Other valleys in this area named for early Cherokee families are Scraper, Chewie, Blackbird, Knight, Seal, Peavine, Blackwood, and many more. Mr. Grigsby talks about the old cemeteries nearby. Just north of his home is the Lincoln England Cemetery, and south is the Knight Graveyard where his wife is buried, then over the mountain to the west is the Scraper (or Chewie) Cemetery established by Archiband Scraper, an early settler. The old Scraper place was later owned by Spring Chewie, and later his father owned it.

Lincoln England had a beautiful farm in the Hollow in the early days. During the Civil War he served with the Confederates under General Stan Watie. After the war he became a minister and preached among the Cherokees until he passed away.

He tells about his mother, who was from the Abraham Sixkiller family who lived on the west edge of Alberty Prairie west of Westville. Ellen Sixkiller and his father William Grigsby were both Cherokees and spent all their lives in Adair County. Abraham Sixkiller was a Civil War veteran and did much to build and improve his little part of the Cherokee Nation. He raised a large family and farmed a large acreage. The Cherokee family of Lacie were of the Alberty Prairie and related to him.

He recalls when he was a young man, there lived an old Cherokee by name of Lewis Seal who died at the age of 113 years. Mr. Seal came from Georgia, and was one of the oldest men who lived in England Hollow.

He tells about the ticks in his home area. They are very bad in some years when the woods are not burned off. He says there are three kinds: seed, wood, and deer ticks. He blames his cats for bringing them around his house. He feels that his dog left to live with a neighbor because of the ticks. He misses this dog as he was a good squirrel hunting dog.

He tells about visiting his birthplace a few years ago. The old double log house is now decaying and falling in. The old home was about two miles north of the old Morris School. The first Morris school was a little rough lumber frame building back in the woods from the present schoolhouse, and it was there that he first went to school.