

INTRODUCTION

(August 6, 1969. I'm visiting with Mary Balentine, an eighty-three year old Cherokee of Craig County, Vinita, Oklahoma. Mrs. Balentine is a life long resident of this area. And recalls many things of historical interest. At one time, this was one of the meeting places of the Cherokees, where they had their federal courts. She mentions many personalities, events and places of historical significance.)

PROMINENT EARLY DAY PEOPLE AND FAMILY

--She died a number of years ago, but she knew a lot about that family. It seems that he was an orphan. He and his brother, I think his name was John. And they had a sister, Ellen. There was three children and they were adopted by a family and raised there.

(Well, did they all live around Park Hill or did they all come to this country?)

I think he was down there somewhere. I think he was the one that married one of the Hoyt girls. He married Anne Hoyt. And she was, I am not sure.

(Well.)

And I'm not too good on--you know, when I was young I can just remember a lot.

(Well, that's the I am, too.)

All of us are. And he had a brother-in-law, and Anne Chamberlain.

And we had some Chamberlain that was a missionary among the Indians, he came to Pheasant Hill.

(Yeah.)

And he thought that a good mission station would be there. So he called his brother-in-law. That was our grandfather Balentine. That time he was at Tahlaquah. And they established the First Presbyterian Church there at Pheasant Hill.