

7-512  
August 25, 1969

Index side A, recording time 20 min; interview time 1½ hours.

Informant: Fred Talley, 71-year full blood Delaware,  
Cotton Creek Community, Washington County, Okla.

Subject: Once there was a Delaware Indian Nation covering a large area of the mid-eastern coast, and of that area the State of Delaware came into existence. In the early days of this country the Delawares were a large and powerful tribe. The coming of the whiteman began a move that has nearly annihilated this tribe. Also, once there was a Delaware Nation in northeastern Oklahoma, covering a large area of northern Washington and Nowata counties. To-day few Delawares remain. Fred talks about his people, their way of life, their meeting grounds, and other things common to their interests.

Fred's grandfather was known only as Colonel Jackson. During the Civil War Col. Jackson was in command of army scouts. He was the last of the hereditary chiefs of the Delawares and died in 1904 at the age of 89. Several different bands of Delawares were moved from Kansas in the 1860s, and it was Col. Jackson who lead the group that settled in northern Washington County. Other groups settled in the Wann, Lenapah, and Alluwe areas of Nowata County, and another band led by Chief Charles Bluejacket settled in the area where a town named for him now stands in northern Craig County.

Many social and economic factors of whiteman design have sadly scattered the Delaware people across Oklahoma. They no longer exist as a Nation and the individuals attach themselves to the Cherokees for unity.

In the early days of these people they came regularly and often to their meeting grounds for tribal business, social enjoyment, and for ceremonial rites. For his area there were four separate meeting grounds located at Post Oak, White Sage, Fish Ketchum, and Cotton Creek. These places also served in earlier times for stomp dances. Now all the old things have passed away, but once a year the Delawares gather near the Talley home for a Stomp Dance and Powwow.

Fred obtained his education at Chillico Indian School and at Bacone College. After his schooling he returned to his home and spent most of his working life in the oil field of his area as driller, checker, pumper, and related work. Now Fred is bedrill, but he enjoys talking of his people with friends and relatives who come often.

Some of the Indian families Fred remembers in the olden days and lived in this northern Washington County area were the Secordites, White Turkey, Longbone, Beaver, Halfmoon, Buckle, Tomey, Shaw, and Washington.