

Informant: Mrs. Ellen McCombs Smith, Creek

(Mrs. Smith was born April 26, 1888. She is speaking in her own language and Lucinda Tiger is interpreting for her.)

(Can you tell me what and how you cooked back in your young days? I'll try to interpret for you.)

Are you going interpret for me?

(Uh-huh.)

If I'm going to tell how I did it, I got a great big iron pot--that's how I cook sofky. (Sofky is corn) I put just a little sofky grits in it, lots of water, and boil it. My mother's name was Jennie Fish, my aunt name was Katie Fish, and my uncle's name Watie Fish. Those are who I lived with in my young days. When they told me to do errand, I'd go, even to get water, I'd go.

It was very far away too, even to store.

(Go ahead and talk and I'll interpret later.)

Un-huh, and there was a little school house there. I went to school there.

There was a river to cross to get to school. When I could cross it, I'd go to school. When school let out, during Christmas tree, I'd get a present.

I thought the prettiest thing I ever got was a scarf. I was very much please.

Other places to go I rode horse. Went to store. I bought things. I crossed Canadian River on horse. I went to Indanola store and came back on a horse.

I worked in fields when they worked. I picked cotton, I help mama. I picked cotton. I worked in corn fields. I helped cut corn with my uncle. And then

1904 I lost my mother. From there my age over 20 I got married to McCombs.

I made membership at Tuskegee Indian Baptist Church. I stay home and I had seven kids. Their daddy died when kids were small. I had six boys and one girl. They are all of age now. I lived in country but now I live in town.

(She used to live at Melette near Hanna, Oklahoma.)

I get help now.