

INTRODUCTION

(December 5, 1969. I'm visiting with Tom Hawkins, an eighty-one year old Cherokee of Couch Prairie, Craig county, Oklahoma. Mr. Hawkins talks about some of the old events, the peoples and the places of Craig county.)

PARKS FAMILY

Settled right here on the prairie.

(Well, George Washington Parks.)

Yes, the old log cabin used to be right out here and when the ranch house burned down, some reason it burned down, too. It was two-story.

(Well, there must not been very many homes around in that early day.)

No.

(And then the Sam Parks, the one that I've heard so much about.

That was his son?)

No. He was a first cousin to some other Parks.

(I see. He was the one that was a judge.)

Yes. Judge Parks. He was a good man. Kept lot of those Cherokees out of trouble.

(Well, now, was he with the Cherokee Nation government or with the Federal government?)

He was just more or less independent.

(Independent, uh-huh. Lawyer along with it, too.)

Yes. He was. Old John Wickliffe and I got to be such good friends. Found out that I was kin to Sam. My mother was a Parks. So, I was in with him.

(You're in good stead.)

Yes, sir.

(You know, there was a colorful man in his day, Mr. Wickliffe.)

Well, you see, there were three of 'em. Tom, Charles, and John.