

LIFE AROUND SALINE COURTHOUSE NOT ALWAYS PEACEFUL IN EARLY DAYS

(Well, there's been many exciting things happened through here.)

Well, that old Saline courthouse is another old record place.

(It sure is!)

Have you ever been over there?

(Yes.)

I have been one there two or three times. One of my aunts is buried there.

(Yes, sir, well, one of your aunts is buried there? That's most interesting.)

Yes.

(What is her name?)

Her name was Cowden. They come from North Carolina here. And at that time, him and some Indians got into a fight and one of the Indians killed him they claim. He had a brother there too. They hit him and when the Indians shot his brother, he shot that Indian; and he killed him, and some other ones decided to jump on him, and he killed three more. Sherman Cowden killed four Indians right there in one place.

(To find out who those folks were, I have to go see the cemetery. Well, and that was your folks.)

Yeah, that was my aunt. That first one you read. That's Mrytle Cowden.

(Well, there must have been a lot of things happened up here at the courthouse.)

Man, they was..

(Arguments and fights and shootings and a killing or probably a hanging.)

Just all the time---

(Well, they had a lot of business there, didn't they?)