

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

(February the fifth, 1970. I'm visiting with Henry Clay, a 77 year old Cherokee of Welling, Cherokee county, Oklahoma. Mr. Clay talks about the people, places, and events of Cherokee history.)

STORY OF BUSHWHACKERS

(Well, it would have been interesting to see that place when your grandparents were living there. But them bushwackers coming in there, that must have been awful.)

Yeah, it was pretty bad.

(She saved the children by hauling them off in the bed ticking.)

That's a fact. Hungry Mountain over there around Jackson and Christie Mountain, she got over there with her sister. And her sister had an old pony and an old hack. When she got there, why, her and her sister Lois hooked them two old ponies to that old hack, they took off and went down along the Red River to that Choctaw country and stayed down there 'till the war was over.

(Those bushwackers shot at those children?)

Yeah, they were playin' out there in the yard, out like children will and right in the ash pile stacked out there. They said ashes just made dust all around them kids. They scattered just like a bunch of quail.

(But they were after your grandpa then?)

Yeah, and Grandma told 'em, said, "All I know is that he's in the army somewhere. Where he's at, I sure couldn't tell you." The men said, "Tell us where he is at. We'll be back this evening. If you don't tell us," said, "we'll kill you and all them boys." And they would.

(Probably would have. I tell you those poor folks had a hard time in