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7 JOHN WILLIAMS, PONCA

INTERVIEWED BY: LEONARD MAKER

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GENERAL SUBJECT: EARLY HISTORY MATERIALS; FAMILY HISTORY; EDUCATION;  
EXPERIENCE IN SCHOOLS; CUSTOMS; HISTORY OF PONCAS

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

INTRODUCTION BY FIELD WORKER

BACKGROUND AND EDUCATION

MILITARY RULES AND DISCIPLINE AT CHILOCCO

JOHN'S FAMILY FAVORED EDUCATION

RATIONS WITHHELD IF CHILDREN NOT IN SCHOOLS

HARSH TREATMENT BY SOLDIERS

COMMISSIONER JOHN COLLIER BELIEVED INDIANS PROGRESSIVE

PONCAS CAME TO OKLAHOMA FROM NEBRASKA

FIRST CONTACT WITH WHITE MAN IN 1612 - NAMING OF OHIO RIVER

MIGRATION OF FOUR TRIBES

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT - NUMBERS FOUR AND SEVEN IMPORTANT

CHIEFTANSHIP INHERITED - SEVEN CLANS OF THE PONCAS

PONCA STORY - THE FOUR GIFTS OF GOD - INDIANS ALL ONE FAMILY

STORIES AND TRADITIONS NOT PASSED ON TO FUTURE GENERATIONS

MIGRATION TO THIS COUNTRY - STORIES TOLD BY FATHER AND GRANDFATHER

INDIAN BELIEFS

MEDICINE BAGS

PIPE DANCE RETAINED BY PONCAS

INDIAN BELIEFS IDENTICAL TO BIBLE

INDIAN STORY (FABLE) STORY OF TURTLE AND CROW

IMPORTANCE OF MEDICINE MAN - MUCH KNOWLEDGE KEPT SECRET

SPIRITUAL BELIEFS

DEATH NOT FEARED BY INDIANS

GOOD HUNTERS IMPORTANT PEOPLE

HOW PONCAS AND COMANCHES BECAME FRIENDS

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

John Williams was born in 1915 on the Ponca Indian Reservation. He attended the local school (Ryan) until 10 years of age at which time he went to Chilocco Indian School where he graduated in 1936. John remembers many stories told to him by his father and grandfather and retains many of the old tribal customs and traditions. At the present time he is Chairman of the Ponca Tribe, known as the Ponca Business Committee. His father was James P. Williams, one of the Chiefs of the Ponca Tribe.