

(Well, I know that you got more education than I have. In interviewing you and listening to you, I feel like I could be in your class too. You can tell about your life history when you were a small girl how when you grew up with your father and mother, and how many sisters, and if they farmed. And how they did--did your mother put her food away or canned and things like that when you were a little girl, and when you went to school and what school you went to and so forth.)

LIFE HISTORY

Well, I was born Dustin, Oklahoma. I lived there most of my life except when I was away to school. I, my grandmother lived alone so when I was real young, we moved with her and helped take care of her or she took care of us. She was very active until she was 96 years old when she passed away but I felt like I got a lot out of my life because we lived in the country. My grandmother spoke only Creek, and my mother didn't speak any Creek. My father worked at in Tulsa. I had to be a go-between, between my mother and grandmother. I spoke Creek fluently, and my grandmother taught us a lot when I was young. I knew all the names of all the birds that I could hear. I knew all the names of all the trees that I saw and well, I knew them in Creek, but after she passed away, I didn't have anyone there to talk to, and I just lost most of my Creek. When I'm around it alot, I can pick it up quite easily. I have three brothers and 4 sisters. We all lived out on the farm. I felt like we were quite fortunate living out there. A lot of people asked us why we didn't move to Tulsa with Daddy, but he felt that we were better off out in the country than we would, a big family would be in a city. He retired from Pan American Petroleum where he worked in Tulsa at the research lab in 1969. When we were young, we'd walk to church. Our church was the WeFaLee and it's about, we'd cut across the field, and it's about 2 miles and I'd go, we always had a camp there. We went to church there. On Wednesday nights, I'd go with my grandmother. We didn't think anything about walking through the trail across the field, across several fields from the little creeks or streams at one place we had to walk was a, we had to walk by a wolf den, and