T-609

June 12, 1970

Index side A, second part, recording time 22 min.; interview time one hour.

Informant: Thelma Todd Murphy, 50-year-old Shawnee, Miami, Ottawa County, Okla.

Subject: Hudson Creek country.

Historic Neosho River has been Indian country long before any written record. During the half century when there was an Indian Territory the Neosho and its tributaries were homeland to Indians of many tribes. Evidence of early settlement can still be found on Cow Creek, Slow Creek, Squaw Creek, Mud, Elm, and Hudson Creek. It is of Hudson Creek near its convergence with the Neosho that Thelma Todd Murphy knows.

Before statehood and before the whitemen came to take the country, the Indian families living in the Hudson Creek community were the Todd, White, McNair, Ellison, Hudson, Sparkman, Autry, Stanback, and Wood. et al.

Thelma's great grand parents were James Todd, and Mary McNair Todd, who were some of the first settlers in this part of the Indian Territory. The little Todd family cemetery has long since been plowed over, but her family records show that Some of the Todd family, among others, were buried here. Mary Todd was born in 1819 and died in 1874.

About a mile up the Hudson Creek valley from the River there was once the Hudson Trading Post and Hudson School. These places served as the hub of community activity. Also by these establishments ran the Old Military Road, the first route of travel across Indian Territory north to south. The Military Road crossed the Neosho River about two miles north and a little east of the Hudson Trading Post. During those early days the Pooler Trading Post operated on the east side of the River at the crossing. According to stories handed down to her, her great grandmother was killed near the Hudson Trading Post by hostile Indians, but she has never been able to verify this.

In her study of the Shawnees she tells that the Eastern Shawnees now in Oklahoma were known as the Lower Shawnees when the tribe was living in Ohio. After a long and bitter struggle, the Lower Shawnees came to Indian Territory and joined with the Cherokees. Other Shawnees of the Ohio country wandered from place to place and became known as the Absentee Shawnees. Until the Indians came to Indian Territory, she says most family names were Indian names for animals or circumstances attendant to animals. Therefore, in tracing her family, she has much dificulty.

Mrs. Murphy is a member of the Ottawa County Historical Society, and thru her knowledge and background of the Indians she has contributed much to this progressive civic organization.

She tells that she has heard that there was a Hudson Creek Church before her time. The location and activity of this little log church is apparently lost now, since she cannot find any of the older people who can tell about it.