Mary Poafpybitty - 5 David E. Jones

Way back in years before I don't know nothing. I was too small, about the size of the little boy I guess. They give rations to the Indians. They give everybody rations. And then finally it kept going till I guess they got tired of it. They had to kill beef....so many families and then they divide it...enother one like that. And then they give rations, flour, sugar, coffee...everything you know...food. And then they got tired of it, I guess the government got tired of it...giving them rations like that so they turn it into money you know and pay the Indians so much. They used to get their payment on the third month, every 3 months. (And when was this?)

Some of that was way back. I was small then. They would pay everybody you know...the childrens and the fathers and the mothers and the childrens, paid everybody like that. They give them money.

(When your family would winter at Ft. Sill, did they have houses they lived in?)

No, they had teepees. I was born in a teepee. (When were you born?)

Year of 1895.

(What time of the year?)

It was cold. Cause my mother said it was cold. No it was in May but it was cold. May 20 is my birthday. Do you know how old I was this past May? I was 70 years old.

(You're older than that aren't you?) In the year of 1895, how old would that be? How many years would that be? (That would be 72.)

72, I be that old.

(You're doing pretty good to be 72.) I know it. You know when I was young I don't do no work. I don't do nothing. My mother wouldn't let me cook or do nothing.