

Informant: Mary Poafpybitty, Comanche

Interviewed by: David Jones

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HOW MARY BECAME AN INDIAN DOCTOR

(I wonder if you could tell me anything about, were you an Indian doctor.

Who taught you to doctor?)

Mother.

(What was her name?)

Tropi (spelled phonetically)

(Tropi. When did she teach you to doctor?)

Oh, about some ten years ago.

(Ten years old.)

Uh-huh.

(What did she teach you?)

She tried to teach me how to use it. What to say, songs, medicine songs, taught me all that.

(Who taught her?)

Her father was a doctor, medicine doctor. And when she was a little girl her father taught that. And when she got older, the older she got, she didn't know who to give it to, all her children's were boys, nothing but boys. It was, there were four boys of them and then after she got me you know when I was born and she raised me and when I was about ten years old she start teaching me. What to do and what to say. When I got to fourteen years old she gave it to me. She gave me that medicine. And I never did use it. I never did use it for long time till my granddaughter--they were here, she got sick you know, I mean her baby got sick, her little daughter about that size, she got sick one morning she came, early in the morning, I was still in bed she came walking in. She knocked on the door, and my boys in that room got up and opened the door for her. She said--when she come in "What I come to see"