

store up at La Junta, Colorado in                      County. And when these Indians--half-breeds or mixed bloods--decided to take their land in fee title, each of them got 640 acres--a section of land out there in                      County, near La Junta. The rest of the Indians left. These mixed bloods--there were about thirty or thirty-five of them--started ranching. They bought the cattle and started farming, and building homes. But it wasn't no time till some of them started to go broke. Within less than ten years they were all back in this part of the country down here. And you know what happened? The government gave them 160 acres as quick as they done me--when they already had claimed citizenship over there, by the 1865 treaty. That ain't right.

(How did they come to go broke--did you ever hear?)

Well, I guess--see, we're in from Wyoming and Colorado up and down there, and they wouldn't settle in one place, but they liked that country on account of the Arkansas. They thought it was good ranch land. But I guess this drinking and gambling and all that got going. So a lot of them went broke. A lot of them sold out. Some of them still have their land, I guess. But each member of the family had a section of land. That's a lot of land.

(You said they were mixed bloods?)

Yeah, mixed bloods. You'll find it in some of these records that you read. Indians, most of them. Some of them were French. Very few Spanish. Most of them French and American. I know some of my father's relations, they lived over here by Yukon east of El Reno. They're among us here yet. But their folks got land twice. First time 650 acres and in this allotment they came in again and they got 160. And then they disposed of it, and I don't think any of them got any land among us here--these mixed bloods.

(Could you tell me the names of some of those families?)

Oh, there's lots of them--there's George Bent and there's Ed Guerrier. They're on those records in those documents. And there's Shields, Coins, Poisals, Keiths, Frass, Clark, Chapmans. Of course later on there was other whites and Germans intermarried