YOUNG TEACHER - FIRST SCHOOL - STORY OF HOGS BEDDED DOWN IN SCHOOL HOUSE

Mrs. Welch: I think our first county superintendent in 1912, summer of 1912, and that fall I went down into what is now the Grove community where Cal Grave lived and had a fine farm. He had married into the Dick family and they had a very fine farm, a fine place down in there. Down, not too far - but it is all under water now, where that lake has all filled up. Well, I had - I had taught school in little frame - you couldn't hardly call it a frame building. It had oak floor with wide cracks in it, half inch wide. And there was one patent desk in the house. And I had been reared in Southwest City, Missouri. Got my education at Southwest City, Missouri. I went down there and it was about 7 miles from where my father had this little store in Zena. And they had the very first real cold spell that came. Why I went over to school - of course it went with your $35 a month. They paid $35 a month to teach school those days. We just had County Superintendent. We did have county certificates then, you see. We didn't have, we went to college in the summer time. But we taught on those county certificates until we work up our certificates better. And a man that lived not too far from the school had bedded his hogs in my school house that morning and they were all - he must have spent the afternoon on Sunday carrying leaves and stuff in there for them. And when I got to school that morning and opened that door and these hogs rushed out to greet me, I all but fainted. It took me to about noon to get that house ready for school that morning. And all the children thought that was so funny. And they called me tenderfoot because that they did that way to a school teacher in Oklahoma and that was the fall of 1913.

(What county was that in?)

Delaware County. And so, I went to talk to him about it. And he just laughed. He thought that was the funniest thing. He said you get used to things. He said that white women get used to a lot, living around Cherokee people. I said, "I don't think you did me right." He said, "That's alright, it's warmer today. + + the weekend maybe."