

T-209-3 (Third of Three Interviews)

JOHN ARMSTRONG, CHEROKEE

INTERVIEWED BY: J. W. TYNER

INTERVIEW DATE: MARCH 14, 1968

TRANSCRIBED BY: NONA KERR

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GENERAL SUBJECT: WOODCRAFT; TOOLS; BUILDING

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

INDIAN WOOD CRAFTSMANSHIP - KINDS OF WOOD USED FOR CERTAIN
ITEMS - VARIOUS TOOLS USED FOR VARIOUS ITEMS

BUILDING LOG HOUSES IS AN ART

MATERIAL USED TO CHINK THE CRACKS - WOODEN PINS USED FOR
NAILS

MOST LOG HOUSES HAD FIREPLACES - THESE USED FOR COOKING
AND HEATING

EARLY DAY PEOPLE HAD VERY LITTLE CASH - BANKS IN VINITA

EARLY DAY TOWN AND KINDS OF BUSINESS PLACES

EARLY DAY EXPERIENCES - BUY CHEESE AND CRACKERS WERE FREE

CONTENTS OF GENERAL MERCANTILE STORE

PLANTING CORN BY HAND IN EARLY DAYS

COOK STOVES AND OTHER FURNITURE - CLOCKS

NO CALENDARS - JUST LADIES BIRTHDAY ALMANAC

EARLY DAY DRUG STORES

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

John Armstrong was born in 1885. He lived in the Timpson Chapel Community in Craig County, Oklahoma and was reared by Granny Buzzard and later sent to Cherokee Orphans Home in Salina. His education was received at the orphanage and completed work equivalent to the fifth grade. Mr. Armstrong is an expert wood craftsman and also a student of the Bible. He is attempting to trace the origin of the American Indian. He was also an interpreter for many years for Indians at court trials as well as for Indian agents. He now lives in Pryor, Oklahoma.

Note: The other interviews on this tape are: Tom Cookson, Cherokee
James A. Tyner, Cherokee