

T-230

Informant: Mamie Mayes, Cherokee
Washie Mayes, Cherokee

Interviewed by: J. W. Tyner
Interview Date: March 12, 1968
Transcribed by: Nona M. Kerr

Side A - Part I

INTRODUCTION OF INFORMANT

This is March 12, 1968. Today, we are visiting in the home of Mamie Mayes, a 73 year old Cherokee of Pryor Oklahoma, a retired school teacher. Also visiting her at this time is her 78 year old brother, Washie Mayes. They are closely related to three Cherokee chiefs. Mayes County, Oklahoma is named for this pioneer family. At the beginning of the visit, Miss Mayes showed many pictures of Cherokee chiefs of Western Cherokees as well as other prominent Cherokees of Indian Territory days. Miss Mayes begins this interview by telling of the Mayes family crest.

MAYES FAMILY TREE

And I have the Mayes Family tree. It begins with Sam Mayes. The white Mayes I think he came from England. And I think, Washie, I think his people's name was spelled Neese. Then it went into Maze—

Washie: Corn. Maze name Corn.

Did you ever read the little magazine that Washie had last week?

(Yes.)

Do you know what I did yesterday? I was invited to a luncheon and I said,

"Listen, ladies. I have an announcement to make." I said, "Spring has sprung and I know where I sprung from." (Irrelevant words) That legend is lovely.

I don't mean just the legend, but the whole history in there is good.

(Yes. I enjoyed reading that. That was good.)

Have you ever met Jim Castleberry?

(The one that lives in Vinita?)

Hunh. No, lives in Adair.