

Informant: Rhoda Sunday Simmons, Cherokee

Interviewed by: J. W. Tyner

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Transcribed by: Nona M. Kerr

Side A - Part II

INTRODUCTION OF INFORMANT:

March 12, 1968. Tonight, we are visiting with Rhoda Sunday Simmons, 51 year old Cherokee of Pears, Cherokee County, Oklahoma. She has spent all of her life in Cherokee and Mayes County as a Simmons, a descendant of the Sunday family, prominent early day Cherokee settlers in the Indian Territory. She has a brother, the late Sunday, a prominent Indian minister among the Cherokees as well as with white churches. Mrs. Simmons is a daughter of Dave Sunday, a prominent Indian pioneer Cherokee and Mayes counties. Mrs. Simmons recalls early childhood and Indian communities of Little Rock and Standing Rock. Mrs. Simmons comments on the Cherokee language, family life, Indian allotments, schooling, Indian crafts, and other matters of historical interest.

HISTORY OF THE SUNDAY FAMILY

(Mrs. Simmons was your father—Dave is your father is he not?)

Yes.

(And he had his allotment at Collinsville or near there?)

Un Hunnh.

(Then did he trade his allotment for your home out by Little—)

Oh, no. He sold his allotment—I don't know how many years after Mom and Dad had been married—but the home place was my mother's allotment. I think she was allotted about 80 acres. And we lived there till they both passed away.

(Now Betsy Sunday—was she a sister to Dave?)

Un Hunnh.

(Well the Sunday family must have been around here about as long as anyone can remember.)

I imagine so. And I know Dave has talked a lot about the Cherokee Seminary down there at Tahlequah—you know the Male Seminary. All the kids were real small when their parents passed away, you know. I think they were kinda