

T-273-3

Informant: John Hunter, Choctaw

Interviewed by: J. W. Tyner

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Side B - Part II

BRIEF INTRODUCTION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF FORT GIBSON

(June 7, 1968. I am visiting with John Hunter, an 89 year old retired farmer, of Choctaw ancestry of Ft. Gibson community of Muskogee County, Oklahoma. Mr. Hunter tells of Ft. Gibson when it was located on the bank of Grand River. And it's relocation when the railroad was built. He also tells of remembering seeing soldiers at the Ft. Gibson stockade when the Fort was in use.)

That's one of the oldest towns in the State of Oklahoma. 'Cause when they drove the Indians from the east through here, why they established a fort to make 'em behave themselves. It's the oldest town in the state. (not clear) The Cherokees held the free trade down, let Muskogee (sentence not clear). They thought when they put in that dam up there, they'd go into business. The town was all down next to the river. They built that railroad through here the year we come there and the railroad company built the depot up on the hill there, where it is, by golly that caused them all to move up there.

FREIGHT BOATS USED EXTENSIVELY ON GRAND RIVER

(What about freight boats?)

Well, before they got that railroad up there, they shipped stuff on boats up there. I seen the boats, small boats; they could take a whole lot of stuff.

(Where were they docked there--did they have a dock?)

They had a dock right there where they, 'bout where the ferry and bridge is, right there at the edge of town.

(What all would they haul up the river?)