

T-273

Informant: Lucy Croaker, Cherokee

Interviewed by: J. W. Tyner

Interview date: June 11, 1968

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BRIEF INTRODUCTION

(June 11, 1968. I am visiting with Lucy Croaker, a 93 year old Cherokee of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. She relates many things of historical interest in her life about the life of the Cherokee Nation and begins this interview by telling of when her and her family moved from the east to the Indian Territory when she was five years old.)

INCIDENT CONCERNING THE NEAR ACCIDENT WHEN CROSSING THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

(Sentence not clear)--but now we have seen so much worse since we was children, we come from Arrow County, Kentucky, when I was five year old. I can remember just as well, when we left there and got on the train and left there. We 'bout 12 miles from home and the train come down, and us kids (static on tape)--we got to Memphis, Tennessee. We crossed the river, Mississippi River. And crossed on a boat, there in the coach, you know. We got way out in the middle of the river, and that thing broke loose some way from what was a pullin', it across, and back it went against the wall. Oh, the crying and taking on of the old women. They were afraid. Well, here come a big colored man with a chain and he hooked it up again. And started, and it broke loose again. Boy, did they ever howl then. Well, he went and got another chain, great big links. He said if that didn't take us out, he didn't know what to do. We was just about goners'. I can remember the old women a crying and a taking on so. But he hooked it up with that and it pulled us out. I can remember that just as well as if it was now.

(And you came here before Statehood?)

Yes. Just a year before statehood, whenever that was--