

T-292

Informant: John Armstrong, Cherokee
Pryor, Oklahoma

Side B

Interviewed by: J.W. Tyner

July 9, 1968

Translated by: Lisa Faulkner

(This is July 9, 1968. I am visiting with John Armstrong an 81 year old Cherokee from Pryor, Oklahoma. Mr. Armstrong tells of Government surveys of Indians lands, Indian land sales and other historical matter.)

(The first few sentences of the interview is not clear. But he is speaking about certain buildings having changed hands.)- - -and I have often wondered, I often think about where in the scriptures about Jesus and the money changers.

LOCATION OF OLD SALINE COURTHOUSE

(Do you remember anything about the old Flint Courthouse? Where it was located? Well, not the Flint courthouse but the Saline courthouse?)

Well, I don't know whether I could find it or not. It's been so long since I have been there. It's been a long, long time, maybe 50 years since I've been there. But it's southeast of Craig. That's where I lived. It's in the south, in the Coo-wee-scoo-wee District. That's what they called it, the Coo-wee-scoo-wee District, you know.

CHEROKEES DRIVEN FROM EAST COAST TO THIS COUNTRY--TRAIL OF TEARS

And the Delaware, I never could find out why the Delawares settled in this part of the country in the later days. Along about the time they got it surveyed. See the Government come here and surveyed this land so many different times, for this and for that. Could see no reason for it. It was on the reservation and it belonged to the Indians and it was theirs as long as grass grows and water flows. 'Cause they had taken their homes and brought them Tennessee, Georgia, North and South Carolina and part of Mississippi. Now the Cherokees were taken. . . we have history about that. . . we have brought some pretty good suits against the Government. They rounded those Cherokees up and drove 'em through. But one old man said that maybe a thousand didn't pay attention to what the old people was tellin' 'em. But whether the other people let it sink down on them or not like it did me, but here's what they