

(That's your mother's daddy?)

Hurt West: Yeow, that was my grandfather. Ella Smith was born September 27, 1854. The youngest son of Frank and Ella Smith was born and Samuel Lowery was born May 11, 1874.

(And you were born right down here in the Fort.)

Mrs. West: Between here and Ft. Gibson.

(In the forks there in the river.)

Mrs. West: Yeow.

(Let's see, when were you born Mrs. West?)

Mrs. West: I'se born in 86.

(1886)

Mrs. West: Uh-huh.

(Well you've seen a lot of changes then haven't you?)

Mrs. West: Yes I have.

(Seen a lot of things happen. What was the country like down in there when you were a little girl?)

Mrs. West: Oh it was, you know, there was, it hadn't growed up, it wasn't growed up and the streams that branched down there that dry branch, between here and Ft. Gibson--well it never did go dry and they was springs all up and down that creek. We lived right on dry Branch down there.

(Now they're all dried up.)

Mrs. West: Yeow they don't have, why soon as the rain's over the branch is dry. Oh, it was open range. They let the cattle run out, hogs too.

(Ft. Gibson was your nearest trading center?)

Mrs. West: Uh-huh. Yeow.

(What was Ft. Gibson like in its early days?)

Mrs. West: Well--

Hurt West: Not much different that what it is today.

Mrs. West: Not much difference.

(Still about the same.)