

October 31, 1968

T-333

Index side 2, recording time 30 minutes.

Informant: John Carlile, 83-year-old Cherokee,  
Tahlequah, Oklahoma

Subject: Mr. Carlile comes from one of the first families settling in the Cherokee Nation. He was born on Caney Creek, in the Illinois District of the Cherokee Nation, and has spent all of his life in the Indian Nation. He retired a few years ago from cattle ranching on Caney Creek.

His recollection of the location of the old Cherokee Nation Courthouse for the Illinois District, was that it was near the Illinois River about midway between Gore and the Tenkiller Dam.

Of interest is the old Carlile home, which was one of the first built in the Indian Nation following the removal of Cherokees from the east. The home as well as the old Carlile School was located about two miles east of Gore on the Illinois River.

John Carlile is the son of Ky Carlile, who was prominent in Indian affairs in the early days. John's grandfather, Thomas Jeffersor Carlile, was of the first Indian settlers coming from the native Indian country in Georgia. Little is known of his grandfather, as he was killed during the Civil war at the home of Ben Whitfield near Wauhatchie. Ky Carlile was 11 years old when his father was killed. No information is known about the events occurring during the Civil war period when many Indians were killed over their convictions.

One of the historic places in eastern Oklahoma now is the Old Hitting Springs Water Mill. It is not known when his grist mill was built, but sometime preceding the Civil war. Mr. Carlile relates that it was owned by a family by the name of Taylor. At the outbreak of the Civil war the family moved to Louisiana, leaving a number of slaves they had brought from the east. Taylor never returned to the Indian Territory. Later the mill was owned and operated by Luke Tyner. It is believed that sometime after the Civil war it was named for Dr. Matthew Hitting, a Cherokee Doctor, as was the big spring which furnished water to power the mill. Subsequent owners of the mill were a Turnbull, and a Fergusson. Fergusson replaced the old wooden water wheel with a metal wheel. A Worley ran the mill for some time. It is not known who next had the mill, but it is now owned by a Galda, their origin unknown. The present mill is not the original mill, and it is believed that shortly after the Civil war the mill was rebuilt in its present location. The original location was nearer the spring. John Carlile remembers taking corn and wheat to this mill long before 1900, carrying the grain on a bareback horse. He calls one time when he had to wait until another set of stone burrs was installed before getting