

February 17, 1969

T-377

Index side A, second part, recording time 25 minutes,
Index side B, first part, recording time 20 minutes.
Interview time, two hours.

Informant: Fred Falleaf, 70-year-old full blood Delaware of
Copan area, Washington County, Oklahoma.

Subject: Of the several bands of Delaware Indians who suffered forced removal from their native lands in other states, one was the Turtle Clan. This band, numbering less than 200 settled in what is now northern Washington County. He mentions other bands of Delawares that came into Indian Territory; one settling at what is now Bluejacket, another making their home in the Alluwe district, another went on thru Indian Territory and stayed for a while in Texas, then moving up into the Indian country around Anadarko (from there he does not know where they went), and other bands the movement of which has been lost to record. One small band settled on Grand River in the Ketchum area. Sol Ketchum was the leader of this band and it is believed that the present town of Ketchum was named for him. Not far from there is the Ketchum family graveyard still preserved. It is not known what became of this group of Delawares, but none can be found in this area to-day.

Fred's father was John Falleaf and his mother was Emma Yellowjacket. His home is on his father's original Indian land allotment, and he has been in this area all of his life. His father established and set aside from his allotment the land for the Falleaf Cemetery. However, before that time, many Delawares were buried at this place including his grandparents and other relatives.

Fred does not recall much about the early days of his schooling, except that he went to Young Lake School and to Rocky Ford School in his home area. These were the only two schools he knew about then. They were attended almost entirely by Indians, but a few white kids got in somehow.

Since the arrival of his people in this country about 1866 or 1867, and in the short span of about one hundred years, their last hoped for refuge, the desire to keep their identity, live their way of life, and to establish themselves on land they could call their own all again has, for the most part, gone down the drain of whiteman exploitation.

Fred mentions that his people originally came from along the Kaw River in the area of what is now Lawrence, Kansas. Their's was a losing battle against great odds immediately after the Civil War. Anti-Indian feelings, bushwhackers, greedy whitemen wanting their land, and the government actually turning their backs on them left them no choice but to move out. Now, the big fat whitemen, the grandsons and great grandsons of those who took the Indians lands a hundred years ago live so good and proud to-day there.