

I shot five times through the board there. I didn't hit him. But by golly I made believer out of them. (begins to speak of other things which are not clear) And they brought my things back. Slipped them back, what they stole (words not clear) for me. I put some dust in their cotton bin.

(You built the house and barn yourself)

Yes.

(You spent a lot of time here then.)

Yes. (words not clear) and by golly just (not clear) over the barn, house.

(Well)

I sheet-rocked it on the inside. Found the log in some huge bushes (not clear) Wasn't a fault in either one of them. (not clear) saving my strength.

Old John Duncan lived up there. He'd come down for a visit. He said I've built many a house and helped built many a house. (sentence not clear)

(That was old Red Cloud Duncan. Yes, I've heard of him.)

Yeah, he was quite a guy.

(Wasn't he a sheriff at one time up in this country?)

Yeah, he was sheriff of Cherokee county. Along time ago. Up in Tahlequah instead of here. Everybody had to go to Tahlequah for that strip payment.

(That was 1894, wasn't it?)

#### PARENTS CAME FROM GEORGIA ON TRAIL OF TEARS

My father died that year of pneumonia. At that time they couldn't handle pneumonia like they do now. He passed away in Tahlequah.

(What was your daddy's name?)

George.

(George Downing.)

He was a soldier in the Civil War. You know they had hard times at that time.