

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

(April 7, 1969. Today I'm visiting with Gertrude Thompson Blevens, an 75 year old Cherokee of Terecita, Cherokee County, Oklahoma. Mrs. Blevens tells some of the things in the early history of this old community of northeast Oklahoma.

TERECITA POST OFFICE NAMED AND COMMUNITY WAS ESTABLISHED

(You were postmaster there at one time--at Terecita?)

I was assistant postmaster for six years. And my mother was postmaster after my daddy died. They appointed her postmaster and then she had to have an assistant. Well, I made the bid. And then after that I put in a bid on a route over at Troy and got it--mail route, and then I had to resign from that to put in a bid, you see.

(Yes ma'am.)

Well, I wasn't in there then for a while, then when I bought out the store--well let's see I got it in '48, and moved away from there in '52--I kept the post office four years.

(How did Terecita get it's name?)

There was an old buy--the Indian Agent--his name was Charley Hunt. Papa sent in three different names, but they didn't recognize them and this Indian agent sent Terecita in. For it said a place on earth, the abbreviation of what the term meant, you know.

(Well. A place on earth.)

Papa was so disappointed. I think--he wanted--his name was Chrisp.

(Yeah.)

And I think he sent in Chrisp, you know, wanting it named after him. Well, he took the post office in 1910.

(That was the first post office.)