

QUIT SCHOOL TO HELP WITH FARMING

(Do you farm this land?)

Yeah, we had, oh, I don't know how many acres of land we had here in allotment. I remember when they allotted the land and surveyed it. Of course, they ah, the surveyors stayed in Seneca but they'd drive out here in a horse and hack everyday. My father helped them survey, and they ate dinner at our house everyday.

Fay: And your land deed is signed by Harrison.

Well, I went to school off and on, mostly off, down here at Wyandotte. I went to Haskell one term and so when it came time to go back I wanted to go but my father wouldn't let me. 'Cause I had just got old enough to get interested in an education. I was eighteen.

(Why didn't he want you to go?)

Well he had so many dern many kids, that I had to stay home and make a living for them. I had to farm. So we, after I quit school, we went to farming pretty big. We kept a hired hand all of the time, we made enough to pay the hired hand. So, I was married in 1907 and went to doing for myself. And we kinda existed through life together sixty-two years. Back in the early days though, there wasn't too many settlers in here, they were just very few Indians. Neighbors were three or four miles apart..

(Did most of the Eastern Shawnees farm their land?)

No, not - ah, some of them farmed at it, but they didn't all farm. Some of them, the olders one I don't reckon ever stuck a plow in the ground, that I know of. Of course, my mother was a white woman and she was a pretty good driver.

(Gettin' ready for a big Pow Wow?)

Yeah.