

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

May 14, 1969. Today, I'm visiting with Tohnee Turtle, a 50 year old full-blood Cherokee of Chewey Community, Adair County, Oklahoma. (Mr. Turtle talks about some of the things he has observed in his lifetime.)

RECALLS OLD SCHOOLS AND CHURCH

(Which was the first old school down here? Was that the one at Chewey?)

Well, I really don't know which one it was.

(Now, was there one up here in this Crittendon community?)

Well, there's one up there, an old school house. You might see it. There's folks living there right now.

(Yes, I know where it is.)

Up here about a mile, Tom Vann lives there.

(Tom Vann. Did they call that Crittendon School?)

No, I don't think so. Not that I know. Now, I don't know really.

(You don't know what name they called it, huh?)

All I know is Holland School house.

(Holland School! Well, did they have a church there too? Or was this Illinois River Baptist Church that was the one.)

This is just--it isn't over--it's just a young church.

(Oh, this is a new one, huh?)

Yes, just about thirteen or fourteen years old.

(What was the first church that you remember through here in this Chewey community?)

That's the only one.

(That's the only one. Did they have meetings down there at the stomp grounds, east of Chewey store?)