

This is Bob Miller. I'm at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Kernell, west of Seminole. Today is Thursday, April 13, 1967. I'm going to interview Mrs. Kernell about life in Seminole county, back, or during, Seminole Nation days, before statehood.

(Where and when were you born, and who were your parents?)

I was born a mile southwest of Newoka, which now known as Hilltop community and my mother was Lollie Johnson, father Gilbert Johnson. Seven children of us were born during that time as we lived in that community, and I am the only survivor out of that seven children. I'm now living west of Seminole, approximately five miles west of Seminole. I was born in the year of 1881. I was... after I got old enough to go to school, I was sent to school named, named..... known as Ena haka Mission, and I spent about five or six years at that school. The thing that we learned at school mostly, to begin with, was, an, to take care of the dishes, such as washing dishes. And then the next thing that they told us, that is they instructed us to do, was make garden. As far as my teachers is concerned, I do not remember who my teachers were, but I do remember the superintendent. The Indians called him Pin-nut-ke, but his name was W.C. Blake. (Actually, it was W.P. Blake.) He was a white man. North of this Newoka, city of Newoka, where we first sent to this school, an, known as Ramsey Mission, and Brother Ramsey was the superintendent. Although he was not my teacher but I remember he used to talk our native tongue, not distinctly, but so that we could understand and the older folks could also understand what he was talking about. But still he made good efforts and tried to, an, see what we were, an to understand what to do and everything else. He tried to lay out the rules of the things....of the school. And after we were transferred from there to Ena haka Mission, I don't know what happened to Brother Ramsey. And according to the story from my father, this Brother Ramsey was a Presbyterian minister. And after he had left Ramsey Mission, he was transferred to Pennsylvania, somewhere in the state of Pennsylvania, and during that time, that he used to write