

Informant: James W. Duncan, Chickasaw

Interview date: July 16, 1969

Interviewed by: Monette Coombes

Mr. James Watson "Jimmy" Duncan, is an 88 year old full blood Chickasaw, of Cumberland, Oklahoma. He was born June 25, 1881 at Double Springs, Indian Territory, later Mead, Oklahoma. He lived there until about the age of 5 years, at which time he moved to Kemp, Oklahoma with his foster family.

He does not remember much about his mother, only that her christian name was "Becky", but does not remember ever seeing his father. He does remember with affection, the family who brought him into their own home and reared him as a member of the family. At the age of about 4 years, he was abandoned by his mother (Mr. Duncan's expression was "She just throwed me away"), and was taken in to the home of Mr. & Mrs. Short who were also full blood Chickasaw, and given the maiden name of his mother, which was "Duncan" because they did not know the name of his father. The Short family had other children at the time they took him but they were all in their teens, so he was treated as a small brother.

His first school was in Colbert, Oklahoma where he attended for one year, then moved back to Double Springs where he stayed about two years and went to school and then the family moved back to Kemp, Oklahoma. His next school was in Lebanon, Oklahoma. This school was at that time called the Chickasaw Orphans Home. This was a boarding school for Indian children, both boys and