

when I come here. Fella by the name of McMahon clerked in it.

He told me about it, and I worked awhile for him. But I forgot who-- old man Miller finally built up the place in there, the land. And they own the stead there or she does, one of the girls, the rest of 'em are all dead. Just one girl is living out of the family.

I knew them over at Vinita. He used to run--worked in a Crack store at Vinita. Way before statehood. We come down here in '97.

('97.)

/Mr. Topping's statement not clear./

(Yeah. Yeah, Tahlequah is poor country all right.)

Hilly, rough. So, we couldn't notion to do around there and we come to Pryor. He run on to a fella there. Was a collector for Chase and Campbell, I believe it was. Two lawyers out of Vinita.

WORKING TO CLEAR LAND

And he told dad, he said, I've got a place on Verdigris. If you do go down there, I believe you could make it pretty good. And he said, it will probably be three weeks before I can get there. But I'll tell you where it's at and tell you who to see. He lives right adjoining the place. And he said, I'll give you twenty dollars an acre for clearing. And you can have all the timber except the Mulberry. I want them made into posts and saw timber. I'll give you a nickel a piece for them. Well, at that time, that was a good price. So, oh, there was lots of timber there, and heavy, and them old--well, you just had to crawl in under the briars and things to get in there and start your piece for a farm then build around it. We worked there for six weeks before he come. Begin to think, Dad begin to think that he didn't--wasn't never coming. But he finally came down there. And we had three or four acres cleared. We had some awful good saw timber. Dad sold that to that sawmill. Sawmill there had closed. It was on that island. What they call the Island.