

T-536-2 (Second of Two Interviews)

INFORMANT: MARY GREEN JOHNSON, SEMINOLE

INTERVIEWED BY: LUCINDA TIGER

INTERVIEW DATE: NOVEMBER 28, 1969

(This interview was in Creek language on T-536, Side B, and was interpreted by Lucinda Tiger.)

(Well, Mary, you want to tell us about your life history when you was a little girl--what you done, where you lived, who you lived with. If you want to go ahead and tell it without stopping it's alright, and then if you stop and want to ask me something, it's alright too. You can talk Creek if you want to, it doesn't matter. (Creek and Seminole have same language.)

Oh.

(You can talk Creek and Seminole, it doesn't matter.)

I can only talk in Creek. My mother's name was--when I was born, it was Christmas day. Indians were having Indian dance and they were to have big feast, but my mother was in labor and she went home and I was born on Christmas day--I was born that night. I guess I was three years old, she died. (Heartbroken). So, my grandmother got me and raise me--I remember my mother, just that part. We lived somewhere around Sasakwa, but I don't hardly remember it. There used to be old people west of Sasakwa. There use to be old Indian woman doctor use to come. There weren't many people (old people) there. We use to have lots of chicken, we made living from it. They planted corn too. It use to be real woody place but they clean it out and plant corn, made garden too. They canned food too. My grandmother was kinda old and my step-father (step-grandfather) worked. They made "sofky" from corn. One time they both had toothache and my grandfather had kill rabbit, but they couldn't eat it, so I ate rabbit by myself, when I was little. I guess I had good set of teeth, cause as of now, I've only had two teeth pulled at my age. We lived west of Sasakwa and it was there my step-grandfather got mean, so they separated. We moved to Spaulding (me and my grandmother). We lived there awhile, sometimes we'd go to Indian ball game. We (kids) use to pick peaches with other family's children. My grandma worked and made living for us. They use to make swing for us kids and we'd play around. In those days I guess there was lots of responsibility for us and worrying over us but we didn't know. Now I know what it is. We lived there and I lost my grandmother. I'm married now and I have three kids...

(Where did you go to school?)

First was at Sasakwa, and then at Spaulding. And when we moved here I went school around here and then I went to Durant and stayed there nine months. After I came back, I didn't go back 'cause my grandmother didn't want me to go back, 'cause she didn't have no one to drive for her and she wanted me home.

Did you want to go back to school?

Yes, I wanted to, but I didn't. I wanted to go back and learn.

(What grade did you get to?)