

T-572

April 14, 1970

Index side B, recording time 23 min.; interview time one and one-half hours.

Informant: Martha Redman, 70-year-old Delaware,
Glenoak Community, Washington County, Okla.

Subject: Early settlement of Delawares on Hogshooter Creek
and in Glenoak Community.

Almost on the Nowata-Washington County line there is an old abandoned store, and three houses along the route of U. S. Highway 60. A short distance over in Washington County the highway crosses Hogshooter Creek. This area is now very thinly settled, but in another day there were many Indians living in this region. The country village of Glenoak had a store run by Amos Cole, a community church, and a post office. A couple miles to the southwest was the village of Hogshooter that boasted of a store, a school, church and several families living in the area. Some three miles west of Glenoak was the location of Cole, now long gone. As one drives along the highway of that region on either side there seems to be an endless scene of fenced cattle pastures, and only a house now and then. Mrs. Redman's story of this country is of a day far back in the past.

Her home is about a mile down the creek from the highway at the end of a road. Her home is on her mothers Indian allotment, and she is happy here in her autumn years. About a block to the east of her house is the old Curleyhead Indian Cemetery. Many of her people are at rest there. This burial place tells of some of those people who lived in this area long ago. By comparison theirs was not a large community, and they lived near to each other. Some of those Delaware families who had their homes in this area were the Curleyhead, Redman, Pambago, Wilson, Washington, Sallée, Adams, Scott, Buffalo, Shafer, Thompson, Elsberry, Newcomb, Willey, and Lawyer. Mrs. Redman is the last of the Delawares of this Hogshooter area. All the others have died out or left that part of the country.

The old Curleyhead Cemetery is abandoned for the most part, although a very few graves are maintained, such as those of Mrs. Redman's family. No one knows how many people were buried here, but she tells that there are at least 125. Only some thirty graves have inscribed markers, some have rough stones to mark the grave, but many have no marker at all and even the graves cannot be determined. She tells that many of the burials were made with the head of the grave to the east. Her father is buried there, and his last request was that he not be buried like the whiteman, as he had very little use for the white eyes. Long before her time there was a burial there of an old Indian. Her father had related to her that this old man also wanted to be buried with his head to the east. Also the old Indian had requested that his old pony be killed and buried beside him. His name is unknown, but in the northeast corner of the cemetery, there are two rough stones that mark these burials.

Mrs. Redman schooling was at the old Cole school, the Hogshooter School, and a year at the Tyner School down toward Caney River. All of these old country schools are gone now. She recalls the happy days when she attended these little schools. Her great joy was to spend any free time going thru the little libraries, searching out the things of interest that were not a part of her classes.