

INTRODUCTION BY FIELD WORKER

(This is June 3, 1970. This is Leonard Maker, Field worker for the American Indian Institute of the University of Oklahoma. Today I am visiting with John Williams. O.K. John--your name is Mr. John Williams.) Right.

(Now you tell me that John, and just talk to us like you just--)

My name is John Williams. At the present time I am the Chairman of the Ponca Tribes called the Ponca Business Committee. And I am the son of one of the later chiefs of the Ponca Tribe. His given name was Mr. James P. Williams, his chieftainship name was Ha ghe sha de (?).

And I come from his family tree, that came from way back in the early years back in the 1800's. And after they had come into this country, my father was one of the first to be educated in the educational line of the-- Our good government of educating our Indian people. Back in the 1887, he went to Haskell Institute.

BACKGROUND AND EDUCATION

(John, you were born here then, in Ponca City?)

Right. I was born in the reservation, called the Ponca Reservation at that time. And I had found out in later years that we had reservations, that we used to call--been taken away from us back in 1904. Now that we are calling ourselves a community of the old Ponca Reservation.

(You received your schooling out there?)

Yes, my school--the first schooling that I had was at a day school. I didn't start school till I was nine years old and at that time why I went to school called Ryan school. I went there I think a year and a half and from there I went to Chilocco Indian school, northern border of Oklahoma.

(Where was this other little school situated?)