

WHITE PEOPLE IN EARLY DAYS: TRADING WITH SOLDIERS AT CANTONMENT

(Why were they trying to get away from the reservation?)

Well, you know they didn't want them to settle over there. They didn't want to let them have this land. They used to drive them away.

They used to drive them back. These Indians used to drive the white people away. They finally came and when the government issued wagons and harness and then all to them--after that, that's when they made the treaty, but they used to drive them. And my grandfather used to tell us, "When they drive these white men away, they used to drive the so far,--way down south--some north--they didn't want them around here. And I been raised right around here and I can remember there used to be some soldiers over here in that stone buiding. They were colored people and white people. And right on this hill over here they used to drill mules and horses and all kinds of them. Right west of this house on the hill. (Myrtle lives just a short distance south of Cantonment) And then they used to throw up something and they used to shoot that.

(Target practice?)

Yeah. They used to do that right over here.

(By drilling these horses and mules, you mean these soldiers would be riding and they'd go through some kind of exercises?)

Yeah. They used to just march like a soldier would. Mules, and then there would be white horses, bay horses, black horses. All kinds of horses. And these Indians, they used to go and trade for bread and bacon with them soldiers. These--I don't know what they used to trade for that. I remember I went with my grandmother. Both my grandmothers, we went. They went and when this white man come out, he said, "What you want?" And another woman--her name was Mrs. Bull Tongue--she said, "kógós" And I was standing there. There were about three