

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

(I am visiting with Minnie Thompson, an 80-year old full-blood Seneca of Turkey Ford, Ottawa county, Oklahoma. Mrs. Thompson talks about the places, events, and people of this part of the old Seneca nation.)

(And this visit in on June 24, 1970.)

HISTORY OF TURKEY FORD ON ELK RIVER

Most of 'em have died and gone--

(Yeah, lot of 'em have passed away. But I guess there were lot of Indians that lived along--)

Yeah, there's lot of Indians.

(Now, is this Elk River?)

Yeah, this is Elk River. Cowskin River, we always called it.

(Yeah. Cowskin. Yeah, there must have been a lot of-- As I understand it, the Senecas were one of the first Indians to come into Indian Territory.)

Yeah. I think so.

(1832. They said. What is the history of Turkey Ford? Did you ever hear?)

No. I never did know history of Turkey Ford. Maybe trukeys crossed, I don't know. (Laughter)

(Yea.)

I tell Ed Turkey--That's Mandy Turkey and they lived out-- They lived out there and they used to cross.

(Well, then that's how come it got that name then.)

Well, I guess that's how it got that name.

(Well, Mandy Turkey)

Yeah. Mandy Turkey. That's Mamie's mother.

(It is?)

Uh-huh.

(Well. There must have been a low place there in the river where they could cross then.)

Oh yeah, it was. We used to go down there and just wade across.

(Well. Well, did they have a store there, too, at one time?)

They had a store there back this way. They called it Turkey Ford store. 'Cause it was close to the ford.

(Well, that was in the days before they started building all these cabins along the river then.)

There wasn't no cabins.