

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

(July 13, 1970. Today I'm visiting with Lucy West, a 64-year old Cherokee of Briar Town, Muskogee county, Oklahoma. Mrs. West has lived in this area all of her life and she tells some of the things about the Briar Town country.)

FIRST MAIL DELIVERY WAS ON HORSEBACK

When it first come out in the Missouri paper it named all the old Indians through Musckogee and what is now Warner.

(Yeah)

But it used to be another, I mean another post office up there.

(Briartown. When was it established as a post office?)

I think it was '84. I love that clipping. It come out in the paper. Now I'm not sure, but I think it was '84. Charles Mponey. Charley, I believe it was. Charlie brought the mail in. Rode to horse and got the mail and brought it in.

(Well. That was a long haul, wasn't it? How long have you been postmistress here, Miss West?)

I've been it eighteen years.

NAMES FAMILIES WHO LIVED IN THIS AREA - THE STARR FAMILY - CEMETERIES

(Well, then you know this country and the people very well.)

Oh sure. I was born here.

(Well, Briartown, has it has a business district before they had the highway through here?)

There's always been stores. They used--They've been at one time they had two or three gins here at different times. Always two stores, but just one now.

(Yes ma'm. Then this must have been a farming country at one time.)

Yes. Before they had the floods, you know. It ruined the bottom. But they're farming the bottom land again now.

(No, in Indian Territory days I have heard that this was quite a big farming country. Very productive of all types of food stuffs, grain.)

(tense skin)