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BESSIE HUNTER SNAKE, DELAWARE
INTERVIEWED BY: LETHA BARKSDALE
INTERVIEW DATE: JUNE 18, 1967
TRANSCRIBED BY: LETHA BARKSDALE

GENERAL SUBJECT: DELAWARE HISTORY; MEDICINES; REPRODUCTION;
ALLOTMENTS

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA
EARLY DELAWARE HISTORY (OKLAHOMA DELAWARES)
THE ALLOTMENT PERIOD
MEDICINES (INFORMANT IS AN INDIAN DOCTOR)
STORIES ABOUT ANIMALS AND PEOPLE
MENSTRUAL HUTS
CHILDBIRTH
SCHOOLING OF INFORMANT
EARLY SETTLERS
RATIONS
ADOPTED "COLORED BOY" (GEORGE WASHINGTON) IN THE DELAWARE
TRIBE
LEASING OF LAND
INTERTRIBAL RELATIONS

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Bessie Hunter Snake is supposedly one of the last two "true" Delawares living in the southwestern Oklahoma area. Her mother, the second person, is supposedly 102 years old and is presently confined to a rest home in Anadarko, Oklahoma. Bessie is approximately 85 years old. As an informant, Bessie is the most prospective source for anthropological data on the Delaware tribe. She was raised by a grandmother who was one of those Delawares who came from the East coast of the United States. Bessie remembers a lot of information in terms of "stories" which she heard told by her grandmother. Presently she resides on a piece of land which was allotted to her grandmother. Her home is located off the farm road which leads to Washita. One interesting matter of concern to any anthropologist would be the fact that Bessie has participated in what she considers a "long time practice" among the Delaware. This is what is known in Anthropological parlance as the "levirate." Bessie is presently married to the brother of her dead husband. She reproduced offspring by each husband. She described this type of marriage as one which "makes long friendship" among the people.

Note: Informant states that in the early period when the Delawares first came to Oklahoma, there was a split. "And that's why you got some of them Delawares down here and some in Dewey."