

T-154

STOKE SMITH, CHEROKEE

INTERVIEWED BY: CROSSLIN SMITH

INTERVIEW DATE: SEPTEMBER 6, 1967

TRANSCRIBED BY: LINDA BUTLER

GENERAL SUBJECT: VERSION OF THUNDERBIRD CHURCH

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

THE CHEROKEE VERSION OF THE THUNDERBIRD
THE GREAT SPECKLED BIRD - A RELIGIOUS STORY
CHEROKEES BELIEVE IN GOD'S LAW
CROSSLIN SMITH EXPLAINS RITUALS AND BELIEF IN GOD
SEVERAL SPEECHES ARE IN CHEROKEE LANGUAGE
MR. SMITH GIVES REASON FOR THIS MEETING IN NICUT
COMMUNITY
MR. SMITH AND JOHN SILK EXAMINE DOCUMENTS DATED 1858

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

At the time of this interview Stoke Smith was about 75 years of age. He is a full blood Cherokee of Vian, Oklahoma and has lived in this area all of his life. Mr. Smith is one of the traditional historians and a ceremonial chief. He is the Keeper of the Sacred Fire of the Cherokees. His father was Red Bird Smith, one of the earlier traditional leaders of the Keetoowahs. (full blood Cherokee Band)

Note: Stoke Smith has been ill and unable to speak plainly and this translation (or summary) was made by his son Crosslin Smith.