

T-192-1 (First of Three Interviews)  
JOHN ARMSTRONG, CHEROKEE  
INTERVIEWED BY: J. W. TYNER  
INTERVIEW DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 1968  
TRANSCRIBED BY: LINDA BUTLER

GENERAL SUBJECT: EARLY LIFE IN CRAIG COUNTY

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

WEIRD STORY ABOUT POLLY DUCK AS WITNESSED BY GRANNY  
BUZZARD

SCHOOL LIFE IN EARLY DAYS AT SALINA ORPHANAGE

RAN AWAY FROM ORPHANAGE AND GOT A JOB AT VINITA

WAS CARRYING THE MAIL THE DAY GILSTRAP WAS KILLED

STORY OF HOW THE WICKLIFF BOYS BECAME OUTLAWS

SEVERAL INCIDENTS WHILE DRIVING FOR DRUMMERS

ROADS WERE TERRIBLE DURING THOSE EARLY DAYS

HORSES FOR VINITA FIRE DEPARTMENT

EXPERIENCES WHILE SERVING AS INTERPRETER FOR INDIAN  
COMMISSION

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

John Armstrong was born in 1885. He lived in the Timpson Chapel Community in Craig County, Oklahoma and was reared by Granny Buzzard and later sent to Cherokee Orphans Home in Salina. His education was received at the orphanage and completed work equivalent to the fifth grade. Mr. Armstrong is an expert wood craftsman and also a student of the Bible. He is attempting to trace the origin of the American Indian. He was also an interpreter for many years for Indians at court trials as well as for Indian Agents. He now lives in Pryor, Oklahoma.

Note: The other informants on this tape are: Mr & Mrs. Ausley Welch, Cherokee  
Andy & Martha Byrd, Cherokee