

Informant: Mrs. Fannie Whiteday, Cherokee

Interviewed: J.W. Tynor

February 19, 1968

Transcribed by: Linda Butler, March, 1968

Proofread by: Nona M. Kerr

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

(--'68. At Salina, Oklahoma, February 19, 1968. Mrs. Fanny Whiteday is an 81 year old Cherokee pioneer is relating experiences and events in her early life and early days in Craig and Mayes County, Oklahoma. Mrs. Whiteday has spent all her life in the Indian territory. Most of which has been in the Salina community. During Mrs. Whiteday's life she has seen Salina grow, as witnessed by the fact that she recalls the time the Cherokee Orphan's Home was the only establishment in Salina. Before any recording, Mrs. Whiteday has handed me a yellow and fragile copy of the Salina Journal newspaper dated July 12, 1912. The feature is an editorial regarding the newly extended MO&G Railroad through Salina and the new railroad depot. This interview picks up during Mrs. Whiteday's recall of old friends, one of whom is Mrs. Lucy Markam, a Cherokee of Locust Grove.)

WHITAKER ORPHANAGE BURNED IN 1903 - OTHER EARLY DAY SCHOOLS

(Mrs. Whiteday, are any of your older friends living in this community?)

Yes, Lucy Markham and I went to school together before 1900, and she lives at Locust Grove. I don't know of any other close by.

(What became of the children when the Orphan's Home burned in 1903?)

The children were taken to Whitaker Home in Pryor Creek. They were taken over in wagons. Some of the boys had never known any other place but Salina, and the Whitaker Home was too much of a change and too strange for them. Nine or ten of the boys immediately came back to Salina. Walked all the way and swam the river. They went to live with different Indian families around Salina.

(Tape begins again)