

T-202

Informant: Willis Mizer, Cherokee

Interviewed by: J. W. Tyner March 1, 1968

Transcribed by: Linda Butler

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BRIEF INTRODUCTION

(Chelsea, Oklahoma March 1, 1968, We're visiting with Mr. Willis Mizer, a 76-year old Cherokee and a retired rancher now living in Chelsea. His home has always been in Rogers County. He tells of early life spent on the family ranch south of Chelsea among nearby neighbors were the Rogers and the McSpaddens, both families being well-known in Oklahoma history. Our visit begins with Mr. Mizer telling the abstract covering his Indian allotment in the then Cooweescoowee District. A particular reference to the old boundaries of the Cherokee Nation, and in those early days a present Cherokee County, Kansas was a part of the Cherokee Nation.)

BOUNDARIES OF CHEROKEE NATION AND EARLY DAY ABSTRACTS

(Just start just like that. What date was the abstract--)

Well, it's, I don't know. I can get it for you.

(Well, no, that's alright. But it does take in the Cherokee County, Kansas?)

It gives the boundary lines, it starts at Ft. Smith, Arkansas, goes up the Arkansas River and takes in the Osage country and hits the Kansas line and comes across there to a certain latitude on longitude and then goes on up to the north end of Cherokee County, Kansas and crosses to the Missouri line and then comes back down the Missouri, Arkansas line to Ft. Smith again.

And I said as far as I know, I never have seen any account as we was never paid a penny of that. And they moved the Osages out of there and sold them the Osage Nation. And that's--Everett Foreman told me that, he was the first one that ever told me that. I just looking at my abstract the other day and it gives that out. And I said well we ought to get paid for that, if we didn't get paid for nothing else