

T-209-3 (Third of Three Interviews)
JOHN ARMSTRONG, CHEROKEE
INTERVIEWED BY: J. W. TYNER
INTERVIEW DATE: MARCH 14, 1968
TRANSCRIBED BY: NONA KERR
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GENERAL SUBJECT: WOODCRAFT; TOOLS; BUILDING

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

BRIEF INTRODUCTION
INDIAN WOOD CRAFTSMANSHIP - KINDS OF WOOD USED FOR CERTAIN
ITEMS - VARIOUS TOOLS USED FOR VARIOUS ITEMS
BUILDING LOG HOUSES IS AN ART
MATERIAL USED TO CHINK THE CRACKS - WOODEN PINS USED FOR
NAILS
MOST LOG HOUSES HAD FIREPLACES - THESE USED FOR COOKING
AND HEATING
EARLY DAY PEOPLE HAD VERY LITTLE CASH - BANKS IN VINITA
EARLY DAY TOWN AND KINDS OF BUSINESS PLACES
EARLY DAY EXPERIENCES - BUY CHEESE AND CRACKERS WERE FREE
CONTENTS OF GENERAL MERCANTILE STORE
PLANTING CORN BY HAND IN EARLY DAYS
COOK STOVES AND OTHER FURNITURE - CLOCKS
NO CALENDARS - JUST LADIES BIRTHDAY ALMANAC
EARLY DAY DRUG STORES

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 interviews on this tape are: Tom Cookson, Cherokee
James A. Tyner, Cherokee