

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

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