Mr. and Mrs. Sam Osborne
Pawnee, Oklahoma
Interviewed by daughter: Ramona Osborne
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Transcribed by: Pruda Shank

(This is Ramona Osborne of the American Indian Institute. I'm talking today with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Osborne, both members of the Pawnee tribe, now residing at Pawnee, Oklahoma. The topic of the conversation will deal in the area of some of the foods which were of importance to the Pawnee tribe. And the nature of the conversation will deal around actual experiences which both my mother and my father have had in relation to the planning of various types of food, the preparation and the methods of preserving these foods for future use.)

(MR. OSBORNE) CORN AND OTHER FOODS USED IN EARLY DAYS

To my best knowledge is that in the olden days, before they came to realize implements such as tractors, and before that, the horses that they worked, why, the Indian he prepared in such a way that's it's hard to believe. The disadvantage that they had in making preparations of the ground, such as cultivating or plowing or whatever that we have in the modern day. But in those days, why, it was difficult to farm and produce. But, yet, how they managed, we cannot, we do not know. But yet, they existed through food, such as corn, which was their main food, where they used it in many different ways, such as, they parched it, and they made meal out of it. And thereby that, why, they had cornbread. And then also they would use this corn to make hominy. And also they would roast it in the summertime to preserve it for winter's use. And there's many ways that they did this in making the food supply for the coming winter. And other food such as pumkin and beans, they planted that and raised it. Then, their main food was buffalo