

1891. And from there the Indians had a choice to pick their land. But the government stepped in and said, "You're going to pick out 80 here--like my 160--I picked out 80 acres here, and he want us to pick out my other land where there was timber. Where's there's pasture. Why? Because they had stock--horses and cattle. In them days we used to have to water our cattle in the river twice a day. Same way with ponies. But when we left them, we just turned them loose along the river. Gather them up when we'd come back in about a week or ten days when we came back from Darlington. They used to go down there every other week, you know, to get their rations.

(After the allotment was completed and everything was settled--did they start right then leasing their lands out? Like your dad--did he--?)

No, they continue leasing. Act of Congress of 1894 provided that the Indians could lease their surplus lands that they didn't operate themselves, land to leases, under appraised evaluation of the class of land that the Indians had. August 15, I think the Act of Congress was, to open to leases.

(Before 1894 would they ever make any leases?)

Oh, yeah. They leased land and they sold land--under territorial laws. I know since--soon after--see, Congress didn't pass no law for inheritance of the descendants until Act of 1910--June 17, 1910--that was the first law that came out to prorate titles of inheritance--to the heirs. But up to that time under territorial law, only the fater had full jurisdiction as to who were--that is, of him being the only heir--positive heir--of his deceased children or if there was a divorce in the family he'd still have the right to be the sole heir of his kid's property rights whether he's living or not. Had sole parental jurisdiction over his children's affairs. But that wasn't right. Lot of times the mother didn't get a thing. Until that act of 1910.