

INFORMANT: JOE ROSS, CHEROKEE

LOCUST GROVE COMMUNITY, CLAREMORE, OKLA.

INTERVIEWED BY: J.A. TYNER

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TRANSCRIBED BY: NONA M. KERR

(May 3, 1968. Today, we are visiting at the home of Mr. Joe Ross, an 87 year old full-blood Cherokee of Claremore, Oklahoma. Mr. Ross gives many interesting historical accounts of early-day northeast Oklahoma. He begins this interview by telling of his early life in what is now Locust Grove Community.)

LOCUST GROVE COMMUNITY IN EARLY DAYS

(And that was where his allotment was? In the early days over there around Locust Grove - that was before they had a town there, wasn't it?)

Oh, yeah. That's where I was born, north of where the town is now, and Dad had a place there, but he swapped it off for a place right down the branch there about a mile and a half, and that's where I was raised, right there. The old place which has been there, the old Childers place, oh, it was put there -

(How far was that from the river?)

About a mile. Right south of - well, the river makes a bend - runs east and west along there. We's on the south side there.

(Did they have a ferry on the river there at that time?)

Oh, yeah.

(Was that Markham's Ferry?)

Yeah. It was Joe Mayes's first.

(It was Joe Mayes's first?)

And then Markham bought it. And Dad's place is right northwest of Locust Grove now - the town of Locust Grove. He was raised - his daddy built that old orphan asylum place there and he was raised there. And when he married, first up there on Rose Prairie, it wasn't long till he moved down and built that house right north of Locust Grove. He was sheriff - I don't know how many years, six years, I guess; Senate - oh gosh, I don't know how many years he was senator;