

PROCEDURE OF THE EARLY ALLOTMENT PROGRAM

(What do you remember about the land allotment program?)

All I can remember, Jim, is when they opened this allotment here, 'course it was opened under what they called the Dawes Act and they had quite a few men that were working there. In those days women didn't do stenographic work. It was all done by men. All the bookkeeping and so forth. And so these Indians were brought in there. And special building built down there for this filing to take place in. It's now occupied by the Himes Department store. And these Indians come in here from all over the Cherokee Country, Cherokee Nation to file.

(Well, let's see in addition to that program, what was the time and occasion for the Cherokees getting roll numbers. When did that happen?)

That happened, that must have happened about 1898, '99. I wish I could find the papers. I been looking for them. We have some papers here, it's a photo-static copy of my father's statement before the commission over here at Muskogee. You'd have to go over there and you'd have to bring certification to the fact that you were a Cherokee. And you had to have somebody sign the document there and it was notarized. They knew you to be a Cherokee. And in time of some genealogy there was written out, and sworn to, to establish the fact that you actually had Cherokee blood.

(Where did the Indians go to in order to get a roll number?)

I think that's where they went to.

(They went to Muskogee.)

They were assigned a roll number up there.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OVERRULED OBJECTION TO FREEDMEN IN THE ALLOTMENT PROGRAM

(How did the freedman get into that program?)

Well, the Cherokees, of course, contested that you know, in the Federal Court in St. Louis. They were defeated. So difficult to see the justice of it.

I don't know. I'm not well enough informed to tell you how the freedman, how they qualified because they were slaves to the Cherokee. Some of them descendants