

T-273

Informant: Joshua Perryman, Cherokee.

Interviewed by: J. W. Tyner

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Transcribed by: Pruda Shank

Proofread by: Nona Kerr

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

(June 4, 1968. I am visiting with Joshua Perryman, an 88 year old retired rancher of Cherokee ancestry, living in Centralia, Craig County, Oklahoma. He has lived in this community since 1892, and relates many events occurring in this part of the Cherokee Nation. He passes on some observations told to him by his father. This interview begins by his observation of pre-Centralia days, it's growth to a town of 2000 people and it's economic demise to the present-day community of 30 people.)

REMEMBERS EARLY DAYS AND GIVES LAND BOUNDARIES

There was a prairie, was all, oh, there's about seven or eight families around here, no there wasn't that many. There was Hargrove lived over there, 'bout a mile over there, and Semibakes lived over there and we here, and then my uncle lived north here a couple of miles. Another fellow lived about a mile east of him, Frank Martin. And that's all there was, when we come here, that's all there was out on this prairie. And that was all. Just a little later on, of course, they begun to come in. There was just about five or six families on this prairie.

(And you say there was only one tree here?)

Yeah, there was just one little tree out there. And you take north here now, 'bout 10 mile north here, nine or ten, around those hills there, there's a string of hills over north here, and there was some homes over there, I think, at that time. We got our mail four miles north, between four and five, between Clear Creek, Hudson. We got our mail over there. I know I rode a little mule, and I'd always get in the shade of this little tree, it was just big enough for me to get in the shade. We'd go right