

T-286

GARFIELD SHOALS, NON-INDIAN (FREEDMAN)

INTERVIEWED BY: RUTH HANKOWSKY

INTERVIEW DATE: JUNE 21, 1967

TRANSCRIBED BY: LISA GARDENHIRE

GENERAL SUBJECT: LIFE HISTORY MATERIALS

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

TELLS ABOUT HIS FAMILY AND THEIR LAND ALLOTMENTS

MANY CHOCTAWS CAME INTO THE AREA ABOUT 1903

WAS NINE YEARS OLD BEFORE HE SAW A WHITE MAN

VERY FEW FREEDMEN KEPT THEIR ALLOTMENTS

MR. BEN AND HIS WIFE

NEVER LEARNED TO TALK THE CHOCTAW LANGUAGE

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Garfield shoals is an 81 year old Freedman who was born near Boswell, Oklahoma. His parents were slaves and they came to Oklahoma from Alabama or Mississippi. He does not remember hearing them talk about where they came from or much of their life before moving to Oklahoma. He lives on his original allotment and has lived here since he was allotted this land as a Choctaw Freedman. He was born in 1881.

Remarks: Mr. Shoals was anxious to give this interview, but he has no teeth and this makes it difficult to understand him. Also there was much static on this tape and much of the conversation was lost. The interviewer told us that this man did give much information of historical value.