

STORY OF FATHER -- HOW HE CAME TO OKLAHOMA:

(This is June 28, 1968. I'm Bob Miller with the Indian History Project, University of Oklahoma. I'm at the home of Mr. And Mrs. Primus Dean, in Wewoka. I'm going to talk with Mr. Dean and Mrs. Dean about the old times in Seminole County, and some of the stories that they remember from their childhood, stories that their parents and grandparents told them. I'm going to talk with Mr. Dean first. Mr Dean will soon be 72 years of age. He was born in Seminole County. He is a Seminole freedman. Mr. Dean, will you tell me first about your father? About his experiences in Tennessee and Florida, and then coming out to Oklahoma?)

Well, now there wasn't much he told us about the Florida deal. Cause I think he mentioned about gettin' into some kind of a trouble, reason why he leave Tennessee. And then he come through with the soldiers during the Civil War. And of course, he come through, they all come through Florida, so he said, but I don't think they stopped down there too long.

(Well, was your father a slave in Tennessee?)

Yeah, he was a slave, they were slaves in Tennessee. But he got in trouble, he killed a man, so we learnt, so he ran off and left.

(He ran off from Tennessee and went to Florida and then came on--)

Come on through. . .

(Did he live with the Seminoles in Florida for any length of time?)

No, he didn't say whether he was with the Seminoles or not. But when he land in this country, well, he was with the Seminoles when they landed here.

(Well, how did he get with the Seminoles--or how'd he get to Oklahoma from Florida?)

He come through with the Civil War, fighting their way through. . .

(Did he serve with the Northern forces in the Civil War?)

I think it was the North, yeah, I believe it was the North, he fought with the North. But he didn't tell us too much about. . .cause seemed like he didn't want us to know too much about what happened, and we don't know--none of his