

told me. . .that an old man named Soskee told about that, I don't know what his other name was, I never heard it. He come through on the first batch that come through on the Trail of Tears. See there were two. The emigrants come in here and the first ones to come in here settled down here. I was told that's where they went and this Soskee said this, and so did Josh Reece, who was a nigger, he was a slave.

A SLAVE CALLED REECE AND HIS WIFE BETSY

He was a slave under a white man at first and he run off. He come to the Cherokees in Tennessee, and after the emigrants come here, he made his way across the Mississippi River, him and his wife, Betsy Reece. She was a slave too. And it seems though, that his first master was a white man, and his name was Reece. And that's why he went by the name of Reece. He got with a Cherokee family and made it across the Mississippi River and got to this side. And he finally got on this side, him and his wife. And he finally kept coming, him and his wife. And they got here, they come in with the Cherokee family, see. They come to make their home.

REECE ACCUSES ENGLISH PEOPLE FOR BRINGING SLAVES TO THIS COUNTRY

They took him in and they both told me this. Said the English people was the ones that brought the Ethiopians over here and they made them do what they wanted to with a bull whip, made by an old blacksmith. Said it would cut the blood out. They would have to do what they was told. And traded them to the Cherokees and among all Indian tribes. There were several different Indian tribes down there at that time on the east coast. (Static interference on tape for the next several sentences.)

THINKS U.S. GOVERNMENT MISTREATS INDIANS

Then the English speaking people made the Constitution of the United States. And I wish they hadn't made it, 'cause they made everything in their favor.