

T-304

Informant: Ralph Keener, Cherokee
Mary Keener, Cherokee

Interviewed by: J. W. Tyner 8-16-68

Transcribed by: Linda Butler

SHORT INTRODUCTION

(August 16, 1968. Tonight I am visiting with Ralph Keener, a 76 year old Cherokee and his wife Mary Keener, 70 year old Cherokee of Ballou Community, Mayes County, Oklahoma. These full blood Indians relate many things about Indian life customs and beliefs. Mrs. Keener begins her recording by reading the Lord's Prayer from the Cherokee Bible.

LORDS PRAYER IN CHEROKEE BY MRS. KEENER

Mary: (Lord's Prayer in Cherokee.)

Ralph: (not clear for about 3 minutes. Much static interference on tape.)

(The country's changed a lot since you've been here, hasn't it?)

Oh, yeah. Not the same families--all different.

(Well you got a lot of Indian people near by here.)

Yeah, quite a few families here.

BALLOU COMMUNITY NAMED FOR BALLOU FAMILY

(Who was this Ballou Community named after, did you ever hear?)

No. Sam Ballou and his brother and--Ballou, I forgot the old man's name.

Mary: Ballou I remember where they lived a long time ago where the church house is close to cemetery..

THE INDIAN CHURCH ACQUIRES LAND FOR A BUILDING

Ralph: They bought 30 acres there. Over across the creek where the church house is. When I decided to buy that where the church