

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

(I am visiting with Florence Ronson, 60 years old, of Cherokee ancestry, and of Rose Prairie, Delaware County, Oklahoma. This interview deals with the historic Saline Courthouse, the only remaining Cherokee Nation District Courthouse. This structure was build in 1870 is the residence of the Ronson family.)

EARLY DAYS OF AREA AROUND SALINE DISTRICT COURTHOUSE

It was first down there on our place, way down in here and it was in a low place tand they built it over here and it's been here ever since. Yeah. Built in 1870.

(Well, 1870. Is this where they used to conduct their legal business and court trials?)

Where they paid off the Indian script.

(Well, this is a historical place all right.)

Mr. Ragsdale: That old man--that old building that set right over there that had upstairs with it.

Yes, and an old blacksmith shop. In fact, I had a couple of engineers come out here when they was surveying the Arkansas River. And they weren't, oh, I'd say they was in their 30's. And they didn't know that there was such a place existed. And they said when they was looking up an old map on the Arkansas River, he said th place was on it as the Saline Trading Post.

(Well!)

And they had a store, and you know, course these other roads weren't here. It was just--

Mr. Ragsdale: One road came up this creek here rightout there, across the creek. two or three times right on down through here by the Duncan