

INFORMANT: SYLVESTER TINKER, OSAGE

PAWHUSKA, OKLAHOMA

INTERVIEWED BY: BOB MILLER

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TRANSCRIBED BY: LISA FAULKNER

(This is Bob Miller with the American Indian Institute, University of Oklahoma. Today is May 25, 1967. I'm talking with Sylvester Tinker, a member of a prominent Osage family. Mr. Tinker is a member of the Osage Council. He's going to talk about early days of the Osages in this country, and before they came - or, at the time they came in to what is now Osage County.)

OSAGES COME FROM KANSAS ABOUT 1871

Well, Bob, I'll start talking about the stories that my father has told me, a good many years ago, about the coming of the Osages from Kansas. My grandfather at that time, was on the tribal council, along with Governor Joe, Mr. Septarian, Supertarian, and Mr. Matthews, and ah, one of the older members of the tribe, was an old man by the name of Wahhoke, who was the father of John Oberlerly, who was at one time, chief of the Osages. My grandfather was William Tinker, who was interpreter for the time that the Indians - when the Osages came down to Osage Nation, 1871 and '2, and my father told me that he was ten years old at the time when they came down - was probably in the year of 1871 or '72, and they brought 'em - they brought the Osages to the northeast corner of the Osage Nation, which has a rock that was carved, and it is at the corner of the 96th meridian. And the Kansas line is to the north and to the east is the Cherokee Nation. And they told all the Osages at that time, why, "don't you go to your right 'cause that's still the state of Kansas; don't go to the left, that belongs to the Cherokee Nation, but from here to the Arkansas River is your new home." Well, they camped on what is now known as Mission Crick - Creek - the first year, and then they drifted from there.

HOW THE OSAGES "BROKE" HORSES IN EARLY DAYS