

INTRODUCTION

(Today I'm visiting with Commodore Ross, an eighty-three year old Cherokee of Locust Grove, Mayes County, Oklahoma. Mr. Ross is a life-long resident of this country, and he tells many things regarding its early history, its people, and of the community.

That was your grandmother/grandparents' place then up there where that old spring is).

GRANDPARENTS SETTLED WHAT IS NOW LOCUST GROVE.

Yeah. When they come to this country, war was going on here, you see, and they settled up there. And then they finally owned all that--

(They owned all this where Locust Grove is now?)

Yeah, I'm proud. They raised cotton and corn, all along through there.

(Well, I'll be doggone. Never even thought about town then)

No. No. Pryor was about the closest town we had, you see, at that time.

(When they'd start this town of Locust Grove?)

Well, I guess it must have been in somewhere along about the 1930's... somewhere about there.

(Who was it that had it? Someone ... Saugee Sanders have a store?)

Who?

(Sanders, wasn't it that had a store here, long time before they ever had a town?)

Well, Joel Bryant had a store just as you going off towards Salina there, you see, right on top of the hill. There's a freight place that was his. Then they finally moved to Locust, you see, when they started, of course. He had the post office, and everything there, you see.

(They didn't call it Locust then, did they?)

No. It was,--yeah, I guess it was, Locust then. Locust Post Office.

(Yeah.)