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INFORMANT: CYNTHIA DOWNING ROSS, CHEROKEE

INTERVIEW DATE: JANUARY 3, 1969

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Side B

Part I

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

January 3, 1969. Today I'm visiting with Cynthia Downing Ross, an 88-year-old Cherokee, of Vera community, Washington county, Oklahoma. Mrs. Ross is one of the few remaining pioneers of this wide prairie country. She tells of early day Indian territory and some of the things she has observed and experienced.

FAMILY SETTLED NEAR PEGGS AND WESTVILLE, OKLAHOMA

(Right in the south edge of what is now Westville.)

North edge of westville.

(I mean the north edge. And that's where they established then their--)

-Yes, that's where they come on through. They all come in this territory.

(Yes and then they scattered from that point then.)

(Too low.) Yeah, they scattered all around.

(Well, my goodness. I wonder if anyone has ever said what prompted the different groups to get together. Some went north, some went south and some went on west. I wonder how they decided.)

How to do that?

(Yes)

Well, there seem to be one person in that outfit that kinda telling the people what to do. And of course, they all get together and they talk about it and then they decided which way they wanted to go.

(I see.)

Just like all the kinfolks.

(Yes mam.)

Go to gether you see. Some of them landed in Peggs. They all went that way, on that prairie you know.