

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

(March 6, 1969. Today I'm visiting with Mary Burge a seventy year old Cherokee of Okoee Community, Craig County, Oklahoma. Mrs. Burge tells about this old community established in the early days of the Indian Territory.)

EARLY DAYS OF OKOEE COMMUNITY

(Yes ma'am. Was there a church here? When your folks first came here? Where did you go to church?)

Schoolhouse.

(Went to the schoolhouse at the church.)

They have a church over there at (not clear).

(Yes ma'am.)

Where the schoolhouse is.

(And this Tucker cemetery that's the oldest cemetery around here I guess--isn't it?)

Let's see. Yes.

Grandma Tucker she lived in that house by the school.

(Yes ma'am.)

And she said she'd lived in there fifty years. She's been living there.

(Yes ma'am. Well they came then about 1870 or before then?)

(Answer not clear.) --Dickerson (not clear). That was his grandmother.

(Yes. What's the name of this creek here?)

Mustang.

(Mustang Creek. And the first post office where was it--that you had here?)

It was down in a route store there by the creek. Then they moved it up on the hill. In there in a store up there at the (not clear). It's still down there.

(What was this country like when you folks first came here?)