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LEWIS, CHARLES STEWART - FOURTH INTERVIEW

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Interview with
Charles Stewart Lewis
Atoka, Oklahoma.

The first ferry that I remember crossing in the Indian Territory was over Red River on the road to Monk Town, Texas. Monk Town was southwest of Paris, Texas. This ferry was located in what is now McCurtain County. The boat was operated by poles. There were four men, two on each side of the boat and each man carried a long pole with which the boat was pushed along. This was known as a pole ferry. Several years later this ferry became a cable ferry.

The price over the pole ferries was fifty cents for wagon and teams and twenty-five cents for footmen. There was another pole ferry over Red River farther west on the road to Bonham.

There was also a ferry over the Washita River at a place called the Moore Crossing. This place was near Fort Washita. These were all pole ferries. The Washita was fordable at nearly all the crossings. When the Washita was flooded boats were used to carry doctors

LEWIS, CHARLES STEWART - FOURTH INTERVIEW

13037

-2-

and others who had urgent business across the river.

The Ceremonial grounds were widely scattered over the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations. One of the most important ceremonial grounds was located at a place called Pigeon Roost. Pigeon Roost was in the forks of the Boggy rivers, about thirty miles southeast of Atoka. District Court was held at this place. There was also a Council house, a church and many small camp houses. The Indians would gather there prepared to stay till all business was finished.

Other Ceremonial grounds were Armstrong Springs, Double Springs, Maytubby Springs and Black Jack.

Double Springs are in Bryan County, Many Springs and Maytubby Springs are in Atoka County.

Another noted Ceremonial ground was in the Caddo Hills. This place was also the scene of a battle at one time, and of course there was a Ceremonial ground located at old Doakville, Indian Territory. There was also an old Cherokee camp ground south of Tushka on Boggy River. The Cherokees came there as refugees and remained until the danger was over. Signs of this camp remained for years. After statehood the land was sold

LEWIS, CHARLES STEWART - FOURTH INTERVIEW

13037

-3-

and it is now in cultivation.

At one time there was an agricultural fair near Cad-
do. Prizes were given for pumpkins, corn, potatoes, and
livestock. The principal entertainment was Indian ball,
and there were several old fiddlers to furnish music.
This fair was a great stimulant to stock raising and also
farming. Better livestock and better seed began to be
brought into the country.