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INTERVIEW WITH ROSA CONNER
VINITA, OKLAHOMA.

FIELD WORKER JAMES R. CARSELOWEY,
May 11, 1937

My name is Rosa (Stephenson) Conner. I live at 243, South Fifth Street, Vinita, Oklahoma. I was born October, 3 1866, at Wyandotte, Kansas.

My father, a Delaware Indian, was named Andrew Stephenson.

My Mother's name was Mary Tiblow, also a Delaware Indian.

My Grandfather's name was Henry Tiblow, a Delaware Indian, who spoke seven different languages, English and French and five Indian languages.

All of the above and their families came to the Indian territory in 1868, with the Delaware tribe of Indians and bought an equal right with the Cherokee tribe of Indians.

BOUGHT FAMOUS OLD BRICK BUILDING.

My grand-father, Henry Tiblow, bought the famous old brick building, built and owned by Johnson Thompson, before the civil war from Mr. Thompson, himself. It was located on the south bank of the Grand River, in Delaware District, Cherokee Nation, now about 7 miles southwest of the present site of Ketchum, in Mayes County, Oklahoma.

My father, Andrew Stephenson, bought land and settled a

mile and a half east of the old brick building.

James Ketchum, another Delaware, who came here with us, step-father of my husband, bought the other old brick house, on the north side of the Grand river. It was owned by Dr. Joe Thompson, son of Johnson Thompson, who now lives at Tahlequah.

HISTORY OF OLD LAND MARKS

Johnson Thompson, an early day merchant, who operated a store in Delaware district for years, before Vinita or any other town was established in the northern part of the Indian Territory, built the two brick houses for a store and residence. They were built two story, and were very stylish houses in their day. During the war the Thompsons abandoned the places and went to the Choctaw nation and stayed for the duration of the war, but came back and retained the places after the war. While they were gone the houses stood idle and any one who came along camped there, and after the slaves were freed, the slaves camped there in great droves.

Thompson sold the places to the above two men, who were the sole owners up to the time of their death. The places then went to their heirs, and just a few years back were sold to the Hydro Electric Dam Company, and will go under water when the

Grand River Dam is built, near Ketchum. T. C. Bowling, of Pryor, Mayes County, Oklahoma, is now custodian of the two places.

Several years ago a cyclone struck these two houses and blew the top story off. The one on the south side of the river was torn down to the first story and re-covered, and made into a bungalow, but the one on the north side was so badly wrecked by the storm, that it was never rebuilt. The bricks were sold to Henry L. Crouch, Vinita, R. F. D. 3, who built a beautiful brick bungalow out of them.

The brick used in these two houses were made on the ground where the houses were built.

A FAMOUS INTERPRETER

My grand-father, Henry Tiblow, was a famous interpreter among the Delaware tribe. There was a large settlement of Delawares in Nowata county, then Cooweescoowee district, and he was gone most of his time, acting as interpreter among his people. They sent him to Washington in that capacity on several different occasions. He died in 1878 and was buried in Nowata county.

SCHOOLS WERE FEW

There were no schools on the south side of Grand river,

as the hills soon set in and there was nothing but hills and mountains. My sister, Mary, and I rode horse-back to school six or seven miles, and we had to cross Grand river to get to a school they called "Contention School". The teachers were most all men those days. Three of them I remember were Mr. Davenport, Mr. Thompson and John E. (Red Cloud) Duncan. Two of the women teachers were Ninnie Cornetzer and Rachel Rogers.

When the river was up, we boarded with the family of Robert Daniel, at one time Assistant Chief of the Cherokee nation. A boy by the name of John Barbee, who stayed with my grand-father, went to school with us and helped us get across the river. In later years a ferry boat was put in and we crossed the river on the ferry-boat.

MARRIED IN 1884

In 1884 I was married to Silas Conner, step-son of James Ketchum, for whom the town of Ketchum is named. We are the parents of two children; Oliver and Mamie, the latter of whom married George Gay.

My husband was a stock buyer and shipped his cattle and hogs to the Kansas City market. He died and was buried in the Ketchum cemetery.

There is a private cemetery on the old Ketchum place, where

Mr. James Ketchum is buried, but his wife who lived to be 111 years old, died after the place had been sold to the Hydro Electric company for the Grand River dam (the whole place will go under water), so they buried her in the New Ketchum Cemetery, one mile east of the town of Ketchum.