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INTERVIEW OF JEFF DODSON
SOUTHWEST OF SALEM
FIELD WORKER GRACE KELLEY
April 13, 1937

Peter McNac started the two Hickory Ground Churches, the New and Old or the South and North. The New is eight miles Southeast of Henryetta, the Old is just one mile south of that with a section between. Dug Sharp owns the New, Wisey Harjo the Old. Township 10, Range 13, In. McIntosh County.

This is the story Peter McNac told me as the reason for his being a preacher: When he was a boy of seventeen he was to be court marshalled (shot) for something he had done, I don't know what. When the "Bess", judge, decided to set him free, instead of having him shot, he said, "I can see some good in this boy, he didn't know any better and I don't think he will do wrong again." So they didn't shoot him and he preached and tried to do good ever since.

He had a horse and buggy and attended every Association. If he stole anything I never knew about it. And it's nature for an Indian to steal and lie.

The East part of Okemah is on his homestead and his heirs are having trouble in court over it. Dug Sharp owns his allotment.

YARTEKA HARJO
AS TOLD BY JEFF DODSON, SALEM

FIELD WORKER GRACE KELLEY.
April 13, 1937

Yarteka Harjo was a good old Indian who was driven here. He lived to be 112 or 113 years old but was blind the last four or five years of his life. He died in 1905 or 1906, I don't remember which, and was buried on his allotment. The North West quarter of Section 9, Township 10, Range 13, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ sec, 9, 10-13.

His wife was Christy Francis Harjo and she lived to be 113 years old. She has a niece living, Louisa Francis Haynes.

OLD TOMAHAWK LOST.

He had a tomahawk I would have given anything for, but he wouldn't part with it when he was living and his people don't know what became of it, but I'd bet anything it was put in his coffin when they buried him.

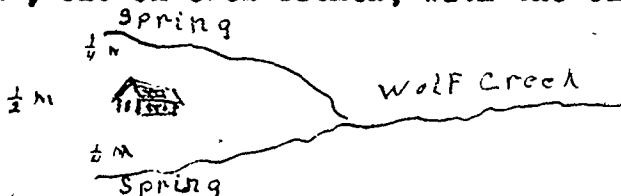
The handle or stem of it was a yard or a yard and a half long. It was made so he could fold it up and put it in his pocket. The hatchet was as sharp as a razor but the hammer part was made for a pipe and the handle was hollow. When he would want a smoke he would take it out of his pocket, unfold it, put tobacco in the top part and light it and smoke. It would reach to the floor.

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MOREY SPRINGS

The Morey Springs are nine miles south of Henryetta. One half South and a quarter West of Joe Bob Watson's. They are on the Morey place. I could tell you about the Morey family but I'd not want you to use my name. In those days you had to be tough to get by but they were more than tough.

GUM SPRINGS.

There is a fork in the Wolf Creek and where it is about a half mile apart the Hutochuppa Church is half way between them. It is $W\frac{1}{2}$ of $SW\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 13, 10, 12. These Springs are on the creeks, one on each branch, with the church between them.



The reason they are called Gum Springs is because that ground is quicksand there was no way of walling the sand off so it wouldn't fill the springs. Someone took hollow logs and drove them into the ground like pipe. They look like bee gums, but there never were bees in them.

I don't know the correct name of them but they are the ones Williams was telling about.

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BUFFALO LICKS

There are two Buffalo Licks close here, one is on Yarteka Harjo's place NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 9, 10, 13. The other is on Philip Sands' place, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 35, 10, 13.

WILD GAME.

There were plenty of buffalo when I came here. Deer, red fox but no silver fox, coyotes and wolves, turkey and small game. There were black bear in the Choctaw Nation but not in the Creek nation.

I ate some black bear once and it tastes similar to soft shell turtle but sweeter.

ARCHIE CARR.

The Archie Carr place is one mile South on Sec. 15, 10, 10. They called him a blacksmith but I would call him a carpenter. He would make wagon beds for anyone who would pay for it but not for himself for there wasn't anyone to pay for it. He used wood instead of iron, didn't know anything about a forge and anvil.

WYBARGER, SAW-MILL OWNER.
JEFF DODSON, SALEM.

My father was a carpenter and worked for Wybarger, a Dutch and Irish man, who owned and controlled a lot of miles.

One in Fort Smith, one in Van Buren, a lot in the Choctaw Nation. They were on the Arkansas River. Men would cut or steal logs and haul them to his mills, of course he didn't have them steal but they did anyway. Father would go wherever he needed a carpenter to work.

A saw-mill camp is like a coal mine camp. Commissary, Church, a lot of dancing and drinking. Men who worked there would take their families and live in the camp.

Wybarger, I don't know his first name or the exact spelling of his name, was a different man from the one Mrs. Henry told about. I should know his name but can't think of it right now. He was an Indian, the father-in-law of Frank Wilson. The homoplace was East of Cat. This Indian and Hugh Henry run the sawmill together and freighted by oxen.

THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS IN THE CREEK NATION.

My mother died in 1896 and I came to the Creek Nation and went to work for Mack Westin for my board and room. I was fourteen or fifteen years old. He was a tank builder, which meant digging ponds or lakes for the stock on the prairies.

Then I worked for four years for old man Caldwell who owned a ranch on Cloud Creek, Muskogee County. He had three

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brands, S-, S--, TL. All brands were listed in Kansas City. When a man would buy another out he would have to keep the brand he bought. Then sometimes each member of a family would own cattle and have a brand for each person's cattle. He bought the ranches was how he had three brands. We got our mail at "Lee", a Post Office half way between Muskogee and Okmulgee.

In 1903 I came to Sonora and worked for Timothy Fowler for fifty cents a day and room and board. I married his daughter in 1906.

The first cattle here, Indian Cattle were mixed or scrub cattle. Then when Texas had the drought the Texas ranchers came up here for the pastures. Armstrong and Wolf were burned out in Texas. They were partners and had several brands but I can't recall them. The Texas ranchers had longhorn cattle.

Frank Li Koski had the F.K brand.

SONORA, POST OFFICE.

Frank Li Koski was the first one to have the Sonora Post Office. There was the Sonora Ranch, the Cotton Gin and store.

In 1908 it was moved to Salome and a Kelley run it.

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Oscar Watson had the Salome Post Office in 1917 when we got the Rural Route from Henryetta and did away with the Salem Post Office. John Fowler had the Salem Post Office in 1902.

MAIL ROUTE

Old Man Popejoy, the grandfather to the Henryetta Popejoys, had the Mail Route from Henryetta to Sonora to Burnie. He was a blacksmith.

SPOKOGEE AND CAT TRAIL

It was pretty straight, just twisted a little to get across the rivers and hills, from Stonewall to Muskogee. Crosses Sec. 4, 10, 13, the Dodson farm; Hillis Harjo farm; Yarteka Harjo farm on to Arbeka.

COTTON GIN

There was a cotton gin just across in Red River County, Texas, close to Idabel, but it was just cane brakes and swamps then. That was long before the town was built. This gin was run by horse-power. Four horses outside on a treadmill. The cotton was cleaned as good or better than now, no leaves or burrs, just clean white lint about two inches long. The cotton was packed in a press upstairs, a mule would be driven in a circle underneath to tighten the press which had a wooden screw.