

Did You Make a Garden?

**told by Nora Thompson Dean
to Dr. Andrew Twaddle**

When we were on our way here (*to Columbia, Missouri, to the university where Nora gave some lectures*) we crossed many little streams on the way and each time I crossed these old streams my memory went back to stories my dad told me. He said in 1867 as the Delaware's last removal from Kansas (where they had lived for over thirty years) he said they were on their journey to Indian Territory (now called Oklahoma) and he said they started to camp several times on their way down there.

It happened one time with my grandmother and her family when they found a little stream and they wanted to camp all night long there until the next day or so to rest their horses. So anyway a farmer ran out and said, "Go on, go on! We don't want you Indians here!"

So my grandmother said to one of the younger Delaware people who spoke English, "Ask this white man if he made a garden." So this young man asked the farmer, "Did you make a garden?" The farmer said, "Yes, yes, I did make a garden, but what is that to you?" So the old woman said, "Tell him he won't live to eat it."

So the young man told him "Well, you won't live to eat it." And sure enough some Delawares who came down later said that man had died. Someone used some kind of a medicine or power or something and it killed that man.