

THE C.H. WOODS FAMILY
(Interview with Mrs. Myrna Collins Chapman)

I am a California native with North Carolina roots! My mother, Lois Page was born in Durham, but my connection to the Method Community came through my father, John Whittier Collins' parents and grandparents.

My great-grandfather, Charles H. Woods was a full-blooded Cherokee Indian and my mother, Mary Atkins Woods was a beautiful African-Indian woman. Grandpa Woods and Mr. Berry O'Kelly were both businessmen and good friends. During the land rush in the western U.S., my great-grandfather moved his family to Boley, Oklahoma. It was there that Grandpa's business flourished, however, his marriage ended in divorce. My great grandmother, Mary moved to Seattle, Washington where she worked as a Registered Nurse.

But before they moved to Oklahoma, my father's mother, Birdie Woods was born in Method. Grandma Birdie married Charles Lyles Collins whose father and mother were Jessie Lyles and Kate Collins. The elder grandpa Collins was a pastor and presiding elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Mississippi and in Camden, New Jersey.

I remember being told that the Method Community was originally settled by freed slaves of African-Cherokee Indian heritage. These freed slaves made their homes from the bark of trees. Thus, the first name of the community was Slab Town.