

ROSS, S. W.

FOURTEENTH INTERVIEW #12339<sup>252</sup>

FIFTEENTH INTERVIEW #12340

Elizabeth Ross,  
Investigator,  
Dec. 1 1937.

An Interview with S. W. Ross.  
Park Hill, Oklahoma.  
CAPTAIN MOSES PRICE.

There are now living a few persons who personally recall the appearance of a man of a bygone time who was referred to as Captain Moses Price. Of medium height, spare of build, bewiskered, Captain Price dropped in on his friends occasionally toward the close of the seventies and early in the eighties of the last century. This was in a section lying south and southeast of Tahlequah. Captain Price, whose home was not distant from the town of Fort Gibson, in a wooded region, made his trips about the country on horseback. No one recalls having seen him in a horse-drawn vehicle or afoot. Invariably he was seen mounted on his trusty bay horse.

Captain Price was a veteran of the Civil War. His title of Captain was genuine, he having commanded a company in the Union Indian brigade, and he is said to have been a brave and dependable officer. During a portion of the Civil conflict he is related to have ridden a mule. So did Santa Anna, the noted Mexican general. In a hot contest one day an officer was conspicuous in the front

ROSS, S. W.

INTERVIEW. 1

12339.

-2-

line of battle, exhibiting both courage and daring. This officer is said upon reliable authority, to have been Captain Moses Price. He escaped serious injury upon the battle fields and was honorably mustered out at Fort Gibson on the last day of May, 1865.

In his youthful days Moses Price attended the historic Dwight Mission school near Sallisaw Creek, in the present Sequoyah County. In reminiscing one day, the Civil War veteran recalled a great and sudden rise of water in Sallisaw Creek. There had been much rainfall and finally it would seem that there was a cloud-burst among the valleys, for the streams with great suddenness rose to unprecedented depth and turbulence. The water came tumbling down, as Captain Price related, in two great "rolls" or vast waves, quite overflowing the corn field in the lower ground below the mission houses, and covering the pasture. With several of the other boys, Moses Price went into the water and caused the mission cows to swim to higher ground.

Greatly interested in deposits of valuable metals or minerals, Captain Price often talked interestingly about the lead which he declared existed in great quantity at several places in the Cherokee Nation. In the bottom of a stream

ROSS, S. W.

INTERVIEW.

12339.

-3-

in a rugged section the lead was of such high grade, he said, that a "gig" or fish spear would penetrate to a depth of an inch or so when thrown with force. Persons engaged in gigging fish sometimes missed the buffalo, trout or other fish, whereupon the "gig" became fast in the lead over which the waters of the stream flowed.

Captain Moses Frice was an interesting talker. Seated near an open and glowing fireplace in winter time he liked to smoke his clay pipe and recall and relate anecdotes concerning people and things of the long past years and seemed reluctant to retire for the night. He had personally known many of the notable men of the early days of the Cherokee Nation in the Indian Territory, as also of the Civil War period. Also he had knowledge of many of the customs of the native Cherokees, and was familiar with various incidents of more than ordinary interest and importance. ~~Very strong physically, though of slender figure,~~ Captain Frice once lifted a 125 pound blacksmith's anvil in either hand and clanged the two heavy instruments together above his head, so he related in speaking of his muscular attainments when he was somewhat younger.