

FOR EMAN, GEORGE.

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THE SANTA FE CUT-OFF.

An Interview with Mr. George Foreman, Guymon, Oklahoma
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THE SANTA FE CUT-OFF

The fork of the Santa Fe Trail was one of the first trails known in this section of Oklahoma. It branched off of the main trail southeast of Garden City and entered the neutral strip north and a little west of where Hooker is now located. It went about two or three miles east of Wild Horse Lake and crossed the Beaver River north of Guymon at the Marsh Place. Then it went west by the Dudley ranch and then west to old Fort Union and to other points in New Mexico.

The trail was undoubtedly used by the Government in moving troops from old Fort Dodge to Fort Union and then on to points in West Texas and New Mexico. Early day trappers and freighters also used the trail. Evidence has been found in the past that several battles occurred along the trail.

George Foreman who homesteaded on the southwest quarter of Section 5-3-15, in 1917 or 1918 found a part of a wagon and the skeleton of an ox team in his field. Later he found a skeleton of an Indian and his horse, several shells, and some that had been fired. A few years before he

found some of the same kind of shells at the Marsh Place, which led him to believe that the same party had been at both places. Some of the shells had the same mark where some kind of an instrument had been used to take them from the gun when they had been jammed. Mr. Cator told him the shells had been made in England. They were the old rim fire style.

About thirty years ago a Mr. Hargrave told Mr. Foreman about two freighters leaving the Dudley ranch to go either to Garden City or to Dodge City after a load of corn and a few supplies for the ranch. One of these freighters was a half-breed and of a mean disposition. The last time they were seen together was at the Edwards Ranch, northwest of where Guymon is now. The half breed had been drinking rather heavily and a fight between the two freighters took place at the ranch. The half breed had a big knife, the other fellow finally knocked him down with a neck yoke. The next day the half breed disappeared during the trip from the Edwards Ranch and the Dudley Ranch. When only one of the freighters came in that evening with both outfits, he said the half breed

was so drunk he fell off of the wagon and he drove off and left him. He was never heard of after that. Several years later Mr. Foreman and L. L. Jones, a former resident of Texahoma were out looking around and found the skeleton of a man with a knife under his head in a sand draw about two or three miles north of the old Dudley Ranch. Mr. Foreman than thought of the story told him by Mr. Hargrave who was just a tramp cowpuncher and had drifted all over the country.

Parts of the old trail can still be found where it crossed the Anchor Dee Ranch from the old Marsh Place to the west side of the ranch. Mr. Foreman had been over the old trail from the Kansas line as far west as the Cimarron County line.
