

·VESTAL, OPHELIA D.

HOUSTON, PARKER MEETING.

10511

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LEGEND & STORY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

VESTAL, OPHELIA D. - HOUSTON, PARKER MEETING 10511

Field worker's name Opheia D. Vestal

This report made, on (date) April 22 1938

1. This legend was secured from (name) Chamber of Commerce

Address Lawton, Oklahoma

This person is (male or female) White, Negro, Indian,

If Indian, give tribe _____

2. Origin and history of legend or story "Houston - Parker Meeting."

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 2

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Ophelia D. Vestal,
Investigator,
April 22, 1938.

Houston-Parker Meeting.
Fort Worth, Texas

In March, 1860, a strange and romantic event in the pages of history proved an old adage, "Truth is stranger than fiction."

Colonel Andrew J. Houston, oldest living son of General Sam Houston, was then a United States District Marshal. His district of eastern Texas extended from Red River to the Gulf, and from the Sabine to the Trinity. He happened to be taking in the fat stock show, and strolling around looking at the fine stock struck the camp of Quannah Parker and his band of Indians. Colonel Houston and Quannah had never met before, but here were two men most historically and romantically associated through the memory of their fathers.

General Sam Houston, in 1860 ordered Captain Sul Ross, (afterwards the gallant confederate general and governor of Texas) who was in command of the Texas Rangers, to go after the Comanches, who had been repeatedly raiding in Texas. Years before the Governor of Texas had consented that In-

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dians, who would remain at peace with the government, might occupy the frontier, but that those who resisted the right of pioneers to also occupy it would be denied the right to come into Texas. Peter Nocona, father of Quannah Parker, Chief of the Comanches, invaded the frontier in 1860 with his powerful tribe. General Houston, then sent Captain Sul Ross to stop these depredations, and instructed Captain Ross to exterminate them if necessary.

Quannah Parker and Colonel Houston, sons of illustrious men - both leaders and statesmen in their respective spheres - met in Fort Worth, and they certainly had a most interesting chat. Nothing shows the marvelous change more than this meeting of these two men.