

I DEX CARDS

Paden, C. H.

Adair, Sam H.

California gold rush--Indian Territory

Adair, John Thompson

Mercantile establishments--Cherokee Nation

Meyes, Sam H.

Fields, Richard

Choate, Sanders

Bean, Starr

Chauncey O. Moore, Supervisor
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149

February 11, 1937

2

E. F. Dodson
Field Worker

Interview: Clif Paden, G. H.
Paden & Sam H. Adair

CALIFORNIA ECPTYNINERS OUTFITTED BY SAM MAYES

In the spring of 1849, Sam Mayes outfitted an outfit to go to California. He had a big trading post in partnership with John Thompson Adair at this time. However, the trading post was not at Muddy Springs, as is thought by some people, but was at the home of John Thompson Adair, six miles east and one mile north of Stilwell, Oklahoma. The expedition met at Muddy Springs and started on their trip from there.

They are said to have been several months on the trip to California. They suffered many hardships on the way, several dying of thirst while crossing the desert. Water cost them as much as \$1.00 per gallon. It is said that one man gave a dollar for a gallon of water, took one swallow himself and gave the rest to his horse, knowing that without his horse he would perish on the way.

I have not been able to get all the names of the company but I will give those I have been able to secure. The outfit was headed by Captain Sam H. Mayes. Those who went with him were, Captain Richard Fields, Ben Goss, his son, Robert Paden, Sanders Choate, Starr Bean and a son of Captain Sam Mayes who was lost on the way or killed, at least he was not heard of by his folks any more.

Three years later Captain Sam Mayes made a second trip to California, driving a herd of cattle, on horseback.