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Field Worker: Grace Kelley
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OLD TRAILS By Minda Geer Hardin
Henryetta, Oklahoma

The McNac Trail went from his place northeast of the old Hickory Ground to Henryetta, passing the Hickory Ground, over Hugh Henry Hill at Third Street to Okmulgee. A branch went from Henryetta to Okemah.

Turkey Ridge Trail from Coffeyville to Nowata, Talala, Tulsa, crossed the Arkansas River, Redfork, Sapulpa, Beggs, Okmulgee, Now Town (Nuyaka), made a bend and joined the McNac branch between Henryetta and Okemah.

There was one from Arkansas City to the Sac and Fox agency.

Another from Pawhuska to Pawnee to Ponca to Stroud and went a little east of Stillwater.

A Spur of the Ozark Trail went from Eufaula to Muskogee and Fort Gibson and Tahlequah.

McDermott & Spokogee Trail was from Weleetka to Dustin. He had all kinds of trails joining other Trails. One went from Weleetka to Eufaula.

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McDERMOTT RANCH.

McDermott was a large rancher which meant he had several ranches--one was close to Eufaula. He would move his cattle from one ranch to the other when the grazing would be better than the other.

WARFIELD STORE.

When I saw this old store it wasn't in use. My father and I were passing it and he told me it was the first store in the Creek Nation or Indian Territory. It was near Salt Springs, where Salt Creek emptied into Skull Creek. Skull Creek was a battlefield but I don't remember anything about it. This was right close to the Sac and Fox Nation, but not in it. I've been at the Sac and Fox agency many times. That is rough and no farming ground.

There was another store exactly where the Rosenwall school now stands.

MARY BURGESS.

She belonged to the Little Cussehta Church but I can't remember the town, though I did know. She was a wonderful woman; when the Indian women would come to church she would have them to quilt, sew, knit, piece quilts, cook.

She would get them to come and then teach them how to do these things. I've been there and watched her as well as helped. (I remember this, G. K.)

MASONIC HALL.

You must remember that daddy was a doctor and I went with him in the early days. That is why so many of what I tell about have him included.

We were coming from Tahlequah and I don't remember exactly where it was but we were going west. A storm came and we stopped there and camped and ate dinner. He said it was the oldest Masonic Temple he ever saw. Surely you can find somebody older than I am who can tell you about it. I know I saw it but I can't locate it any better.

HIGH SPRING.

Haskell was north east instead of north west of High Spring. Cap Severs ranch was between High Spring and Okmulgee; the Moore ranch was east of High Spring. The corrals were right against the east side of High Spring Hill on the Turkey Ridge Trail, which has half a dozen other names. At first the shipping was done on foot, they drove the cattle through. Then the railroad came to Red Fork and they drove the cattle to Red Fork and put them on the trains. Pumpkin Center school is now near the hill.

There is a little old town (oil) at the east end of the hill. During the Civil War a battle was fought there and there are a lot of holes on it where people have dug for the money that was supposed to have been buried there. (Those Indians wouldn't fight on either side.)

CIVIL WAR STORY.

Siah Barnett (the father of the rich Jackson Barnett) was talking with father and I was allowed to listen to them. He told that he was one of Opuithli Yahola's followers and of his experiences.

Bill McMillin of Osage, Kansas, showed me the grave of the Chief and told me that he journeyed with him.

Jimmie Palmer told me about how he and his wife, Mary, started to the Indian Territory and had to stop at Missouri. When he heard about this he joined Price's army.

Papa and M. M. Geer told it to me but they are all dead and I wasn't born. I don't know if the office would say I knew it or not.

HIGH SPRINGS AND OPUITHLI YAHOLA.

High Springs was where the High Council was held before the Civil War. Food was sent up the river on boats for the Indians and Oxen wagons brought food to them.

Later freight wagons from Kansas brought food, cloth and money.

There were buildings there besides the Indian Camps. There were no shipping corrals then. These supplies were just received when the Blue jackets came to take their food, horses and things from them. They buried their money and danced to settle the ground.

Opuithli Yahola had just come there with his people and they had an awful fight. A lot were killed. He left with his old men, women and children. He got to Tulsey Town and a lot of them were drowned in the river after he had had a battle with the Confederate Indians. The Indians of Tulsey Town fed them and when their food gave out they went with him; walked, some were barefooted. He and part of his followers got to Osage, Kansas, and that was where he took sick and died and was buried. Others of his followers went to Missouri. All that lived came back to the Indian Territory when it was safe to do so.

At the beginning, he, John Ross and Stan Watie were at Council and took hands that they would stay out of the war as it was none of their affair but John Ross

and Stan Watie didn't stand by their promise. They tried to stay out of it but couldn't.

STARR MAIL ROUTE.

Bob Galbreath of Tulsa, I think that is how to spell his name, first had the Poney Express, and then the Starr Mail route; from Tulsa he went west but I don't know where.

I've seen the loaded ponies. One was saddled to ride--one would be led with sacks of mail tied on it.

MARSHALS.

Heck Thomas was a marshal in 1907. George Clay was a deputy marshal in 1906 and lived on Salt Creek.

HAND PRINTS.

About two miles up the river from Arbeca Bridge on the south side of the river, there are all sizes of hand prints on rock. I can hunt up a picture I have if they want it. A little way up the river is a cement post in the river. Across the river and a little northwest is a high point. Belle Starr lived on top of that point. A creek came on the south side below her house, making a deep ravine. A rock with three fish cut on it, two with their tails to the river, the other had its head

toward river. About one mile from there southwest are two cement posts similiar to the one in the river. This is south and east of Levi Pickering's old pasture. Leaving this point and going southeast there is a low place in the ground on the right hand side. Going down this bank is a large flat rock. You have to go down to this low place. Some fish are cut in it. Still going across east about fifty feet there is a thing that looks like a vault, an old cement thing with a crack, marks and names on it, on top of it. We tied a rock on a string and dropped it down in the crack. I don't believe it has a bottom--at least we couldn't get it. This is about two miles south of the old Henryetta Pump Station, in the bend of the river, and close to Taledogia Town.

Moccasin Tracks.

Straight east of Sapulpa there is a hill that is cut off like a cliff. There are every size tracks running west from the edge of this cliff toward land, like they had come from the air. Some of them are cut in two by the cliff edge. It is rock now, but looks like it would look if it were mud; their toes are dug in like children's tracks running in mud.

Exciting Times.

We, father and I, were camped near Claremore, close to an arbor where they were having a big camp meeting, with a lot of conversions. While they were praying the marshal came in and arrested the preacher who was charged with the murder of his wife and children in Chicago. I wasn't there, but was camped close. (I don't remember the names) I was so scared that we decided to go back to Tulsa.

On the way back to Tulsa I got scared worse than ever. Close to Tulsa the road made a circle near the river, where the bridge is now. We heard shooting and father side tracked from the road. (We didn't want to get into something that was none of our business.) A gang was coming down the road and the marshals were so close to them that they took to the river. The marshals shot and killed one in the river. I don't know if that was the only one hurt or not. We went on to Tulsa. That was the Green Gang. That was in 1896.

Claremore Springs.

They were just springs in the ground. Mr. Shot, a Cherokee, lived there.

Tulsa Springs.

There was a big spring close to Tulsa called Allen.

We camped there, but I can't remember how to locate it.

Two Other of Daddy's Camps.
(L. H. Geer or Doc Palmer)

We camped at Watsonville. There were three sulphur springs on a flat place on a hill. Lizzie Wind's uncle ran the store. Lizzie Wind, Oliver Williams and Lumber Scott remember our camping there, they are living.

Fences.

There was one fence that was several hundred miles long--President Cleveland made them remove or cut it. He said it was against the law to make people go around such a long way. I can't locate it right now, but will try to remember it and send it in later.

Another one was about forty miles long, from where the Muskogee bridge is now to the old Okmulgee Mission or Orphans Home, and turned north. Calahan put it there. He was a relative of Severs and Shields, I believe through marriage. Then they started bringing the mail, first on horseback then coach. We didn't call it a "stage" coach, but they call it "stage coach" now.

Interesting Persons.

Big Ben--Lived on the Arkansas River and worked on the ferry boat near Muskogee, moved seven miles south of

Henryetta. They were the true copper colored Indian with no white or negro blood in them. He saw that his children had a good education and went to church. I can give the names and who his children married. Some in the Chupco family and others in the Indian Barnett family.

Yahola, don't remember the first name, a prophet whose allotment was where the town of Yahola is now. His daughter is Blanch Bean, but I don't know where she lives.

Just four years before the Midland Valley railroad came and cut his allotment in two, he prophesied it's coming in this way.

He took a stick and drew a picture on the ground and the persons around him wanted to know what he was making. It was a big worm with smoke coming out of its head. There were holes in its sides and people had their heads sticking out of them. He said that that thing was going to come through there in about four years. They thought it would eat them up.

Mr. Dill--a Cherokee druggist, a high type.

Lived at Talala.

Paul Bibles--The father of the present Paul Bibles, lived on the east side of the Vertigris River, east of Talala.

A very religious person who had prayer every day and everybody, servants, guests, and family had to get down on their knees at prayer. They were Cherokees, too, and were artists, musicians, very intelligent.

Jim Miller--A Delaware Indian. Had beautiful wavy or curly hair. Owned a ranch between Talala and Nowata, which joined the Rogers Ranch.
