

PARISH, ELIAS

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INTERVIEW WITH ELIAS PARISH
Darwin, Oklahoma.

In the United States Geological Survey, George Otis Smith was director, of the Geological Topographical and Agricultural Survey made in 1895, 1896, 1897, and 1898 in the southeastern part of Indian Territory. This survey was made for the purpose of establishing sections, townships and ranges, streams, roads, timber, and bench marks for the purpose of appraising different lands for the allotments of the Chickasaw and Choctaw Indians as designated under certain treaties made with the Indians, in preparation for statehood.

Each and every native was allowed so many dollar's worth in the allotment of their homestead and surplus land. Land was appraised ranging from twenty five cents an acre to as high as \$10.00 per acre. The United States Indian Department in 1902 established a branch land office in Atoka, Indian Territory, for the purpose of enrolling and allotting the Choctaws, Chickasaws and Freedmen of this

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district. Through this office all surplus land that was not allotted was sold and auctioned to the highest and best bidder, prices for this surplus land ranged from twenty five cents to as high as \$40.00 an acre.

In this survey certain lands covering the coal and mineral districts were reserved by the Choctaws, Chickasaws and the United States Indian Department to be paid out to the Choctaw and Chickasaw citizens of different localities.

The surface of these lands was allowed to be sold for agricultural purposes with all mineral rights reserved, for the purpose of development and collecting of royalties. This land is still reserved by the Choctaws and the Chickasaws with all mineral rights reserved.

Under instructions of the Interior Department, in the year 1906 and 1907, 1,375,324, acres of land containing some of the more valuable timber, according to reports and records were reserved from allotment. This land was located in the south eastern part of Oklahoma but since has been sold and is now owned by large lumber companies.