

PHILLIPS, MARTHA

INTERVIEW

13704

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BIOGRAPHY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma  
PHILLIPS, MARTHA. INTERVIEW.

#13704

Field Worker's name Loudolphus D. MaybeeThis report made on (date) April 19, 1938.

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1. Name Martha Phillips
  2. Post Office Address Murphy, Oklahoma.
  3. Residence address (or location) Southwest Murphy.
  4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day        Year 1850
  5. Place of birth Webbers Falls

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6. Name of Father Mr. Thompson Place of birth         
Other information about father Indian and Scotch-Irish.

7. Name of Mother        Place of birth         
Other information about mother Colored - Mother was  
owned by Mr. Thompson.

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached       .

An Interview with Mrs. Martha Phillips, Murphy, Okla.  
By - Lendolphus D. Maybee, Investigator.  
April 19, 1938.

Mrs Martha Phillips father died before she was born and she was inherited by her brother as a slave. William Thompson, her half brother, owned her during the War. They lived on the Military Road and her brother and Aunt were planning to sell Martha and her half brothers and when their mother found out about the plan she escaped one night with Martha, then fourteen years old, and Martha's two little half brothers. They took nothing with them but a quilt. The mother attempted to swim the Grand River with the two small children on her back but was forced to turn back when Martha was caught by the current and pulled away from her down the river. They hid in the rocks of the Green Leaf Mountains, wet and half frozen. They lived on dried haws and a little parched corn given to them by an Indian woman for over a month. They were about starved when Martha's mother went out and killed a wild hog. She dragged it to camp and with a crude knife cut pieces of meat for the children. They made a small fire under the cliff to cook their meat. This attracted the attention of an Indian man riding close by and he came to investi-

gate. He took them to Martha's cousin's house and they hid there in the attic for many days while her brother and other relatives hunted for them.

Martha's mistress, Katy Thompson, was Joe Vann's great grandmother. They lived so close to the Military Road that they had to hide all their valuables in the woods to keep the soldiers from stealing them.

Martha and her mother and brothers were at Fort Gibson during the battle which the Union soldiers won. The ground shook from the roar of the cannons. After the War Martha worked a while at Fort Gibson. She got an allotment and it was taken away from her in 1891. She married Charles Phillips whose father was Dutch and mother half negro. He was a Civil War veteran. Martha always had an ambition to be a doctor and she studied all the books of medicine that she could obtain.