

PITCHLYNN, EVERETT E.

INTERVIEW

5948

485

SECOND INTERVIEW

7687

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

#5948

Field worker's name Lula AustinThis report made on (date) May 26, 1937

-
1. This legend was
secured from (name) Everett E. Pitchlynn

Address Caddo, OklahomaThis person is (male or female) White, Negro, Indian,If Indian, give tribe

2. Origin and history of legend or story

A story that I have heard my father Peter Pitchlynn tell--Printed in the Indian Exchange May 15, 1924.

-
3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank
sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets
attached 6

PITCHLYNN, EVERETT E. INTERVIEW.

#5948

It is a legend of how the Choctaw race came.

The Choctaw race came from the bosom of a great sea, supposed to be the Gulf of Mexico. Even when they made their first appearance upon the earth, they were so numerous as to cover the sloping and sandy shore as far as the eye could reach. For a long time they traveled upon the sands before they could find a place suited to their wants.

The name of their Principal Chief or Prophet was "Chah-tab," whence came the name "Choctaw." He was a man of great age or wisdom. For many moons their bodies were strengthened by pleasant breezes and their hearts gladdened by perpetual summer.

In the process of time, however, the multitude was visited by sickness and the dead bodies of old women and little children were left upon the shore one after another.

Then the heart of the Prophet became troubled, and planting a long staff which he carried in his hand, and which was endowed with the powers of an oracle, he told the people that from the spot designated they must turn their faces toward the unknown wilderness. But before entering upon this

part of their journey he specified a certain day for starting and told them that they were at liberty, in the meantime, to enjoy themselves by feasting and dancing and performing their national odes.

It was now early morning and the hour appointed for starting. Heavy clouds and flying mists rested upon the sea, but the beautiful waves melted upon the shore as joyfully as before. The staff which the Prophet planted was found leaning toward the point in the North and in that direction did the multitude take up their line of march. Their journey lay across streams, over hills through tangled forests and over immense prairies.

They now arrived in an entirely new country; they planted the magic staff every night with utmost care and rose in the morning with eagerness to ascertain the direction in which it leaped, and thus had they traveled many days when they found themselves upon the margin of an O-kee-ne-Chitta, or the

PITCHLYNN, EVERETT E. INTERVIEW.

#5948

3

great highway of the water Mississippi. Here they pitched their tents and having again planted their staff they lay down to sleep. When the morning came the oracle told them that they must cross the mighty river before them; they built themselves rafts and reached the opposite shore in safety.

They now found themselves in a country of rare beauty, where the trees were so high as to almost touch the clouds, and where game of all kinds and the sweetest of fruits were found in abundance. The flowers of the land were more brilliant than any they had ever seen, and so large as to often shield them from the sunlight of the noon. With the climate of the land they were delighted and the air they breathed seemed to fill their bodies with new strength. So pleased were they with all they saw that they built mounds in all the more beautiful valleys through which they passed, so that the master of light might know that they were not an

ungrateful people. In this country they resolved to remain, and here they established their government and in due time made the mound of "Num-i-wai-ya," near the head waters of what is now the Pearl River in Mississippi.

Time passed on and the Choctaw Nation became so powerful that its hunting ground extended to the sky. Trouble now arose among the younger warriors and hunters of the Nation, until it came to pass that they left the cabins of their fathers, and settled in the distant regions of the earth. Thus from the body of the Choctaw Nation have sprung the other nations which are known as the Chickasaws and the Cherokees, Creeks or Muskogees, the Shawnees and the Seminoles.

And in the process of time the Choctaws founded a great city, wherein their aged men might spend their days in peace; and because they loved those of their people who had long before departed into

PITCHLYNN, EVERETT E. INTERVIEW.

#5948

5

distant regions. They called this city Yazso
the meaning of which is "Home of the people who
are gone."