

PHIPPS, JOE

INTERVIEW

5204

April 1, 1937

JOE PHIPPS Informant  
Subject: Sam Houston Place  
Okay, Okla.

Jas. S. Buchanan

I have known this place as the Sam Houston place ever since the 70's when I first came to this part of the Indian Territory.

Mrs. Lou Kell owned the place when I first made the acquaintance of the family. I was married to Mattie Kell, a daughter of Lou Kell, in 1889. In later years my wife and I lived at the place from the other children of Mrs. Kell's and lived there several years. Mrs. Kell was a fullblood Cherokee and a sister of the wives of Tom and Bob French.

Before she came in possession of the Houston place it was owned by a man by the name of Thomas Hickey. As I have said before, the place was always known as the Sam Houston place and has only lost its identity by that name during the last generation, but in the early days it was always referred to by that name. The old house which was the original home of Houston has been torn down and gone for many years as it was in bad shape when I lived in it. The house that stands on the property at this time was built in the late 90's after I disposed of the place. The only improvement of the old Houston property that exists today is the old stone well which in later years has been repaired by placing a concrete box curb above the ground. The location of the old house is about fifty foot west of the well and the old house that is now there.

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JOE PHIPPS

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Jes. S. Buchanan

The old Texas trail passed about seventy-five yards north of the house and marks of the old trail can be found today. The trail branched at a point just east of this place and one branch of the trail crossed the Grand river at Ft. Gibson and the main trail crossed the Arkansas just above the mouth of the Grand and continued on south passing through the valley east of old Ft. Davis.