

HEINTZELMAN, EAMA NEEDHAM MARTIN. INTERVIEW #9268 62

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Investigator  
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An interview with Emma Needham Martin  
Heintzelman. 319 North Bickford Street,  
El Reno, Oklahoma.

Mrs. Emma Needham Martin Heintzelman was  
born in Clay County Missouri, December 13, 1871.

She was married to William E. Martin and they  
named their only child, a boy, after him. Her husband  
died and she and her mother and little son came to El  
Reno in 1892. El Reno was not much of a place when  
she came. There was only one brick building and the  
Kerfoot Hotel, a brick building at 201 North Bickford  
was under construction but was not yet finished.

Mrs. Martin was then married to Mr. P. S.  
Heintzelman, who was running a second hand furniture  
store, located just two doors north of the Kerfoot Hotel.

The G. W. Jones Flour Feed and Grain store was  
between their furniture store and the hotel.

Mrs. Heintzelman saw an Indian squaw steal a  
pillow from their store one day. The Indian woman  
slipped the pillow under her blanket and got away with  
it.

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She remembers an old Indian who was called "Deefy". She has seen him many times. "Deefy" was a blind Indian; when he found out that the white people were here to stay he gouged out his own eyes so that he would not have to see the "Pale Faces".

Mrs. Heintzelman, her husband and brother-in-law went to the river one time to fish. Her husband and Dave took their fishing tackle and went along the river hunting a good place to fish, leaving her with the wagon. She got tired and went to hunting wild grapes. She found a nice large vine and had not been there long when she saw an Indian coming on a pony. It frightened her somewhat as the Indian kept looking all round, shading his eyes with his hand and acting peculiarly. She did not know what he might do if he saw her there so she hid beneath the thick, wild grape vine until he was gone. She saw one of her own men folks and motioned for him to come to her. No harm came of it - just a few moments of an unpleasant dread. They were near an Indian camp where

there were a good many Indians.

The fairgrounds and a race track at that time were located in the north east part of town, where the negro section is now and often the Indians would hold their dances there. She, her husband and small son went to see them dance at the Fairgrounds one night. The son William E. Martin got so interested in their weird actions as the tom-toms were being beaten and the Indians were dancing around a fire, dressed in feathers and other colorful garb and singing as they danced that he got too close and an Indian man picked him up and danced around the circle with him in his arms. When he got around he put the boy down and William came at once to his mother and kept pretty close to her for the rest of the evening.

William was about six years at that time.

Mr. A. P. Heintzelman bought the bare lot at 319 North Bickford and built the house in which Mrs. Heintzelman has lived ever since. 1895.

Behind their house there used to be a windmill and when the Kiowa and Comanche country was opened

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for settlement and the drawing was held in El Paso in 1901. Mrs. Heintzelman saw more people than she ever saw before or has seen since. They slept all over the place, in the yard on the sidewalk. Her son, William, got a wash boiler and put it in front of their house and kept it full of water that he got from their windmill so that the thirsty people could have water to drink. He did not charge anything for it-was just being kind to the people, who were having a tough time finding water.

Some men came to their windmill, got water free and then went out into the crowd and peddled it for 5 cents a glass. When Mrs. Heintzelman found out what they were doing with the water she put a stop to it. A man came then and wanted to buy water of her and she would not sell him any but told him that he could have all the water that he could drink, free.

She has a memento of that windmill that is not very pleasant. She ran into the framework of the windmill and was pretty badly hurt one time. It cut a gash on her forehead and in the edge of her hair, that left a scar to this day.

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Mrs. Heintzelman has a quilt top that was made by her mother, that is at least seventy-five years old. It is made of turkey red calico on white cloth and is made in what is called an "Octopus design". Her mother traded a hen to a negro woman for the pattern. The design is very large and there are only six blocks to a quilt and it is very beautiful.