

POAHWAY, JOHNSON.

INTERVIEW

#9852

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

POAHWAY, JOHNSON - INTERVIEW.

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Field worker's name Bessie L. Thomas

This report made on (date) January 19, 1938

1. This legend was secured from (name) Johnson Poahway

Address Cache, Oklahoma. Rt. A.

This person is (male or female) White, Negro, Indian,

If Indian, give tribe Comanche Indian.

2. Origin and history of legend or story Got name because of

Maidens and Indian youths killing themselves when disappointed

in problems of the heart.

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

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Thomas, Bessie L. - Investigator
Pioneer Indian History, S-149.
Jan. 19, 1938.

Interview with Johnson Poahway
Cache, Oklahoma.

MEDICINE BLUFFS.

This Indian legend has been told to me many times by my father, who was a Medicine Man for years, among the Comanche tribe.

A few miles north and west of Fort Sill, on Medicine Creek there is a high limestone bluff, named Medicine Bluff because of the fate, according to a legend, of two young Medicine Men who were both in love with the same beautiful Indian maiden, a Chieftain's daughter. The story goes that to settle their rivalry they decided that they would both ride off the bluffs on horseback, and the surviving one should have the heart and hand of the maiden. This was agreed upon by both youths and by the maiden, so a day was set and a great crowd of Indians, friends of the three, gathered at the bluffs. At a given signal from the Chieftain the run was started and both boys went over the cliff, falling to death, two hundred feet below, in the waters of the creek. The maiden, above, watched for the one she loved to emerge from the creek triumphant but to her

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horror, he did not appear so in a few moments she joined her lover in death, leaping over the ledge before anyone knew what she was doing. Thus ever after the bluffs, and the creek below, have been called Medicine Bluff, Medicine Creek and Little Medicine. In later years some Indians and a few white people actually have gone to death over these same bluffs.