

SIMS, MARY THOMPSON

INTERVIEW

#12455

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Etta D. Mason
Investigator
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Interview with Mary Thompson Sims
Atoka, Oklahoma

My father and mother were slaves. My father belonged to Hugh Black Thompson and my mother belonged to Jessie Kilgore. They were both born in Georgia and both came to this country in the removal.

My mother spun thread and wove cloth for the soldiers during the war, and my father raised food and made boots and shoes for the soldiers, tanning the hides and making the leather also.

I have heard my father and mother tell terrible tales about the war. When the Yankee soldiers would come into a Southern settlement where there were no men on guard they would take the best blankets from the beds and put them on their horses and then probably burn the ones they did not want. They would take kegs of syrup and pour the syrup into the feather beds after they had ripped open the ticking.

The war passed and the slaves were freed. Father and mother had many hardships after the war. They did not know which way to turn. Their masters were not in

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any position to help them financially and could only advise them. We have always lived in the Choctaw Nation, although in several different communities.

My father cut cord wood to fire the first engines to pull trains through this country. At one time my father was a runaway slave. That was before he came to this country and before he belonged to Thompson.