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Chauncey O. Moore, Supervisor
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149

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Wm. T. Holland
Field Worker

Interview: Mrs. Mettie McIndoo
2527 East First St.
Tulsa, Oklahoma

TOWNS OF LONG AGO

James McFarlan Stovall, father of Mrs. Mettie McIndoo of Tulsa, moved into Indian Territory in the year 1883 and settled at or near a trading post known as Johnsonville, being named for an Indian by that name who owned all the land at and near this settlement.

Some years later, within the memory of Mrs. McIndoo, a man by the name of Nathan Byars, also a member of a well known and wealthy family, wooed and wed a daughter of Johnson - about the time the Santa Fe Railroad was built through this section of the Territory. A town was laid out down the road about five miles south of Johnsonville and was given the name of Byars, as it is now known.

Nothing remains of Johnsonville now. A post-office was operated there from 1882 to 1886. The town also had a blacksmith shop, as well as a general store.

White Bead Hill is another of the old towns of the eighties. This town was a trading center from about 1880 until 1889. This place, in addition to the usual store and blacksmith shop, had a private school, or what you might term a subscription school. Mrs. McIndoo attended this school, which was known as Pierce Institute. Among her various school mates, she remembers a daughter of Sam Paul, wealthy Indian of that locality. Sam Paul owned practically all the land in the Washita River valley, at least all in his community, and in the year 1889, saw the beginning of what is now the city known as Paul's Valley, named for this Indian land-owner, Sam Paul.

White Bead Hill began to decline as soon as Paul's Valley began its growth and today nothing remains of this once active trading post and community center.

Paul's Valley is near where White Bead Hill once stood.

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February 25, 1937

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Field Worker

Interview: Mrs. McIndoo
2527 East 1st t.
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CAPTURE OF OUTLAWS

Mrs. McIndoo relates an incident when her father, Jim Stovall, was a Deputy U. S. Marshal in territorial days, about the year 1889.

One day a well-dressed stranger stopped at their home and introduced himself. He asked if he might stay there several days as he was a Deputy Marshal and had been sent in there to investigate conditions in that part of the country. Mr. Stovall didn't tell him that he too was a deputy, but became suspicious of the man and his actions. So, he wrote to headquarters asking about this man and his mission. In due time, he received a letter from the Marshal telling him he knew nothing of such a man, that he was an impostor, and asked Mr. Stovall to watch the man.

About this time, a band of horse thieves were operating in the community and Stovall was trying to locate their hide-out. Finally, he located them in a log house. Being more of them than he could handle, he sent to headquarters for reinforcements. In due time they came and they awaited the arrival of the band at their hide-out, being hid in the bushes themselves. It might be stated that the houses then were log houses and most of them had pits or cellars under the floors where vegetables were kept in the winter and which afforded shelter during a battle.

Well, the battle began, after calling on them to surrender and their refusal. The battle waged hotter and hotter and the bandits continued to hold out until, finally, they, the officers, decided to burn them out. They got the front part of a wagon, piled loose hay on it, set it afire and pushed it down the slant to the house. Seeing their predicament, the bandits offered to surrender. So, Stovall told them to throw down their guns and come out with their hands high in the air. This they did and thus ended the siege.

The visitor who posed as a Deputy U. S. Marshal, disappeared before this battle and capture and wasn't one of the gang captured. He was what was then known as a "spotter". These "Spotters" would travel thru the country, posing as various kinds of business and professional men. Their business was to locate horses and cattle to steal later. Mr. Stovall told him one day that they would have some business to attend to soon and he would write to headquarters and get permission for him to take part, not telling him he already knew he was an impostor. However, the man didn't wait for an answer but left immediately and was never seen again.

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February 25th, 1937

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Interview: Mrs. McIndoo
2527 E. 1st St.
Tulsa, Okla.

OUTLAW

Mrs. McIndoo relates a story of the time three outlaws visited them while they lived near or at Johnsonville (near Byars).

The outlaws roamed the country at that time in the eighties, preying on the settlers, sometimes stealing horses and sometimes holding up people.

At this particular time, there came to their home, Jim and Bill Wade, and a man by the name of Toller. Mr. Stovall, Mrs. McIndoo's father, was sitting out in the yard. These three men came riding up and stopped in front of the house, at the gate. Toller got down off of his horse and the Wade brothers remained on theirs. Toller came into the yard under the pretense of getting a drink from the well which was in the front yard. When he got to the well, which was near where Mr. Stovall was sitting, he aimed his rifle at Mr. Stovall and ordered him to hand over his money and do it in a hurry. Seeing the intentions of the men, he decided he would engage them, or Toller, in conversation until he could think of a plan of action. So, he tried to persuade him to move on and not molest him but he wouldn't listen, kept insisting on Stovall handing over his money, under threat of being shot.

After seeing that he couldn't prevail on him to leave, Mr. Stovall told him he had very little money and what he did have was in the house, but that he would go in and get it for him. He kept his rifle behind the door, so, as he went in the door, he quickly jumped around it, seized his rifle and when he reappeared, he came out with his rifle aimed at Toller, who was sitting on the curbing of the well and at that time had his back to Stovall. Stovall told him to "stick 'em up", as he had him covered. Toller pleaded with him not to shoot him, especially in the back, saying, "You wouldn't kill a man, would you?" Stovall told him he never had, but ~~would in defense of his home and self and if he wanted to live, to get moving, all of them.~~ So, they left immediately with the promise to return at a later date. But they never molested him again, that is, they didn't try to hold him up. They probably stole stock in that community, but were not caught at it, at least not by Stovall.