

SMISER, B. S. (Mrs.) INTERVIEW

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SECOND INTERVIEW

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Etta D. Mason
Interviewer
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An incident in the life of James
S. Standley's grandmother, Margurite
Irvin Standley.
By Mrs. B. S. Smiser, Atoka, Oklahoma

The grandfather and grandmother lived in Tennessee at this time. The grandfather was too old to serve in the War and was at home, almost bedfast with rheumatism.

News came to the settlement that a group of soldiers were passing southward and were pillaging the homes of the settlement. The grandmother went upstairs and had the ceiling removed from one of the rooms and had all of her provisions stored away in the attic and the ceiling replaced. She then divided her stock into small herds and sent them in different directions, each with one of her trusted negroes. Although the slaves had been freed at that time they had not left her and could be trusted.

The soldiers took everything in sight, burned the negro quarters, and captured the grandfather and tied him in a boat at the river landing near their home. The family did not know what the soldiers had

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done to the grandfather, and he remained tied in the boat three days without food or water. He was found by his oldest son who arrived home from the front. He had been wounded and had come home to rest. He said his father reminded him of an old eagle who had been captured and caged.

One of the daughters, Eva Standley, had her own pony. She prized it greatly and for some reason it had not been sent away with the other stock. Of course the soldiers found the pony and were taking it away with them.

Eva had a small revolver that had been given her by her southern sweetheart. Concealing this revolver in her dress she begged the soldiers to let her tell her pony goodby; they consented and she led the pony away a few feet, put her arm around its neck, kissed it on the forehead and with the other hand put the muzzle of the gun to its temple and fired twice. The pony fell and had to be killed. She told the soldiers that the pony would die believing to them.

The grandfather was James Standley. He was a fullblood Choctaw Indian.

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The original Oklahoma Standleys who came from Mississippi were: James Stirman Standley, John Padlock Standley, Mrs. Leona Standley Spann, Freman Spann, Harry Spann, Nora Spann, Newt Sanders, Olga Standley, Standley Turner, Leona Turner, Ben Turner, Frank Turner, Nora Turner.

The ones living are; Newt Sanders who lives at Stigler and was Representative of Haskell County, Standley Turner, Leona Turner, Ben Turner, Frank Turner and Nora Turner all living at Indianola, Oklahoma.

Mrs. E. S. Smiser, who gave the above story, lives in Atoka, Oklahoma. She is the daughter of J. S. Standley and a granddaughter of the Mr. and Mrs. James Standley about whose lives she writes.