

STUMBS, J. A.

INTERVIEW

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

205

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Field worker's name Ethel B. Tackitt

This report made on (date) April 25, 1938

1. This legend was secured from (name) Mr. J.A. Stubbs

Address Hobart, Kiowa County, Oklahoma

This person is (male or female) ~~male~~ White ~~Indian~~

If Indian, give tribe _____

2. Origin and history of legend or story Hiram Thompson who lived in a cave on Rush Creek in Garvin County at a very early period of settlement.

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 4

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Ethel B. Tackitt,
Investigator,
April 25, 1938;

An Interview with Mr. J. A. Stubbs,
Lone Wolf, Kiowa County, Okla.

My parents, Peter Washington Stubbs and Nancie Donahoe Stubbs, moved to the Cheyenne and Arapaho country soon after the opening in 1892, I was then a big boy, almost twelve years old.

I grew up like the other pioneer boys except that my mother taught me to assist her with the housework of all kinds, and especially to cook, so by the time I was grown I was a good cook and housekeeper.

There were few ways in which a youth could earn spending money in those days. I wanted to make some money - so I went over to Pauls Valley which was a much older and settled part of the country. I looked for some kind of a job that would pay money, as I could have earned ponies or feed near home.

I met a man who had lost his wife and he had several children. As he could not get anyone to cook and keep house for them, I gladly took the job for girls did not go

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out to work in homes of that kind, in those days. I remained with them for sometime and while working there I became acquainted with Hiram Thompson. My employer rented a farm from him and we moved out there. It was thirty miles northeast of Purdy, on Rush Creek.

When I first knew Hiram Thompson he was a very old man and had lived on this farm many years which would have placed his coming sometime in the 70's. I was interested when he talked and he told me many of his early experiences, showing me where he lived when he first came to Rush Creek.

His first dwelling was a cave in the Rocks of a small hill near Rush Creek, where he lived two years. He liked to exhibit it. He owned only one pony at that time, but he went to the Bottom land for it was very fine. He dug out, by hand, the brush and cleared off as much of the timber as he could, but many of the trees were left because he did not have the time to get them off and plant also.

He rode his pony to Pauls Valley and purchased a Georgia stock plow which he carried home on the pony.

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Hitching the pony to the Georgia stock, he plowed around the trees and planted corn in the little patch. He worked the corn by hand and when it had to be plowed, he again made the trip to Pauls Valley on the pony and carried back a one-horse double shovel plow. With this he worked his corn while he lived on wild game and wild fruit. His clothing amounted to so very little, he never thought of them.

The corn produced well and he sold it to ranchmen to feed their stock, thereby getting enough money to buy such food as he and his hounds were forced to have, and could not find wild. He also purchased other kinds of seed and cleared more land, as he could buy a few hand tools by then and carry them out to his cave on the pony.

After two years he built a two-room log hut on one end of the cave, in which he lived. In the other end he let his hounds and pony live, as he continued to clear land and place it in cultivation.

When I knew him, he was yet living in the two log rooms and continued to let his pack of hounds live in the

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other end. He then had a number of ponies and when he needed a stable the ponies also were kept in the room with the hounds.

His beard was long and white and his age was evident, but he continued to ride one of his many ponies to town quite frequently, followed by his pack of hounds. He would purchase a jug of whiskey and proceed to get very drunk, but he with his pony and dogs would make their way home. He was an interesting man but did not tell much about his life before coming to the Chickasaw Nation.

However, he was quite proud of his little farm which he then owned and enjoyed telling of his labors in homesteading it. The cave he also preserved with care while the old brush fences were yet to be seen in many places as he had made use of the brush in that way to protect his growing corn in the little cleared patches before he had time to cut rails and build better fences.

When I knew him he no longer worked the land but rented to other persons to farm, while he with his dogs and ponies seemed to enjoy life together.