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BANKS, DICK.

SIXTH INTERVIEW

10200

52

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

53

BANKS, DICK

SIXTH INTERVIEW

10209

Field worker's name Bessie L. Thomas

This report made on (date) March 12 1938

1. This legend was secured from (name) Dick Banks

Address Marlow, Oklahoma

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

If Indian, give tribe _____

2. Origin and history of legend or story Right after the closing of the Civil War.

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

BANKS, DICK

SIXTH INTERVIEW

10209

Bessie L. Thomas,
Investigator,
March 12, 1938.

An Interview with Mr. Dick Banks,
Marlow, Oklahoma.

This Indian Trail was established right after the close of the Civil War, by the [KWAHADIS] Mo-Har-Dys, meaning Antelope chasers. These antelope chasers were Juanah Parker's band of approximately five hundred warriors, who, with their families, were still on the warpath. All other Indians had been rounded up, by General McKenzie in the Palo Duro Canyon, (27) seven miles south of Amarillo, Texas, in what is known as the Panhandle of Texas. The General gave orders to kill all the horses belonging to these Indians, according to the story told by the Indians and corroborated in later years by the cattlemen and cowboys who were living in that part of the country at that time. It was estimated by these cattlemen that there were over a thousand head of horses and mules killed. This was a wise move by the General as he knew that a mounted bunch of Indian warriors, with their wonderful horsemanship, would be hard to overtake and subdue.

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Quannah Parker also made a wise move in due time to the Double Mountain Fork of the Brazos River and thereby avoided capture by General McKenzie.

These captives, the women and children, were loaded into Government wagons and the men on foot were herded and driven by the soldiers to Fort Sill which was to be their future home. The course of march carried them eastward, on the north side of Salt Fork of Red River by the way of the Haystack Mountains and journeying eastward on the north side of North Fork, they crossed Elk Creek at Little Bow Mountains. They went on eastward by way of Twin Mountains crossing Otter Creek, directly south of the Narrows, at Tibb Mountains, crossing the McClellan Trail running from north to south at a point near where the Quannah Parker home is today, eighteen miles directly west of Fort Sill. Arriving at the Fort, these captive Indians were made as comfortable as could be under the circumstances. There had been a lot of suffering and privations on this long march, owing to the crowded way of transportation, also, to the fact that it was winter time and there was much sickness among them, and a number of

BANKS, DICK

SIXTH INTERVIEW

10809

- 3 -

deaths, before the long journey was completed.

These captives reconciled themselves to their fate, and never gave the Government a great deal of trouble: Rude homes and lodgings were constructed along the streams near the Fort and the captives were fed and clothed by the Government. And soon thereafter the Government Indian school was established a few miles south of Old Fort Sill and missionaries of different denominations came among the captives teaching and preaching Christianity and they began to accept reluctantly the white man's religion and most of them today are Christians. In 1886, Collier and Sneed opened an Indian Trading Post, three miles south of Fort Sill, offering Indian wares and merchandise for sale. These things were readily traded for and bought by the Indians.