

MARTIN, DAVID A.

INTERVIEW

#8602

MARTIN, DAVID A.

INTERVIEW.

437

LEGEND & STORY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field worker's name Robert H. Boatman.

This report made on (date) September 22, 1937. 1937

1. This legend was secured from (name) David A. Martin.

Address Blanchard, McClain County.

This person is (ma^le or fema^le) White, Negro, Indian,

If Indian, give tribe _____

2. Origin and history of legend or story Can describe trail from

Gulf of Mexico to St. Louis, Missouri.

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

Robert Boatman,
Interviewer.
Sept. 22, 1937.

An Interview With David Martin,
Blanchard, Oklahoma. McClain County.

I was born in the state of Missouri, January 14, 1851, came to the Territory when quite a young man, at the age of twenty-three years and settled in the Chickasaw Nation near the mouth of Mad Creek, where it empties into Red River. I spent one year here, then came up north of old Griner and began to work for Tom Dibble, a ranchman. I built the first house where the town of Dibble now stands. It was a log house. The town of Dibble took its name from the old famous ranchman, Tom Dibble. This was in 1875. At that time there was not a house between Dibble and Cherokee Town, a small place across the Washita River east of where Pauls Valley now stands. There were two houses between Dibble and old Fort Sill. Fort Sill at its present location was then fifteen years old. It was moved from Fort Arbuckle 1860.

The first trail ever to be known in the Territory was not a cow trail as has been so discussed. There was a man named John Chishelm, who came to this country in

MARTIN, DAVID. A.

INTERVIEW.

8602.

-2-

1825, and he had a store a few miles east of where Asher now is. He had Mexicans for soldiers and pack drivers. His goods were carried by them, on pack mules to and from St. Louis, Missouri, north, and Indianola south, a town on the gulf of Mexico. This trail entered the Territory near old Fort Cherokee, at the mouth of Grand River. Coming by way of Sapulpa, Econtuchka, and Asher; going south it crossed the Washita River at Kickapoo Flats, the Arbuckle Mountains at Chimney Hill, the bayou near Healdton, crossed Mud Creek five miles below Cole Arr, and then Red River at the mouth of Farmer's Creek. This was the first trail ever to be made through Indian Territory.

John Chisholm kept a store at the given place until 1849. He left the Territory and went to California, taking a band of Shawnee Indians who were refugees from Kansas with him. All the Indian warriors were killed in Custer's Massacre. The old ones who were left, escaped, coming back to Texas. Then they were piloted over this same trail again into the Territory by old Captain West, a Captain of the Texas Rangers.

-3-

John Chisholm went broke in California, and came back to the Territory in 1865, and set up a camp near where Oklahoma City is now. From that time no one ever knew what became of him.

Next a Cow Trail was laid out by the Government surveyors. It ran parallel with the Choctaw Indian Meridian line from Arkansas City to Red River.

There were three known bridges in the Territory in 1870. Old Jiles LaFlore built two toll bridges across Boggy Creek; one at the Limestone Gap, the other located between Atoka and old Caddo. In 1871 a Mr. Gardner built a toll bridge across the Washita River southeast of where Pauls Valley now is. This bridge was in use until 1877. When the railroad was built through, the bridge was discontinued.

The first trains running over the new railroad burned wood for fuel. People would cut wood all along the railroad, and if the train needed fueling it was stopped, and from eight to ten cords of wood were loaded on the train.

MARTIN, DAVID, A.

INTERVIEW.

8602.

-4-

The old Mexican, Deuteronomy was very notorious, and would always leave some kind of mark to represent a crime he had done at some certain place.

One day I was walking over the Gyp Hills in Greer County, south of Mangum. I picked up a terrapin hull with this inscription, "Deuteronomy Terrapin-1845".