

HALL, JULIA. SECOND INTERVIEW

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Alfred F. Hicks,  
Interviewer,  
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John C. Fremont's First Trip  
To California in 1853,

as told by

Mrs. Julia Hall and others,  
Newata, Oklahoma.

It was in the year of 1853 that on day in  
September a man by the name of John C. Fremont  
started from West Port, Missouri, a place near Kansas  
City, Missouri, to make a trip back to California for  
the Government. In fact, he was trying to blaze out a  
trail to California, and took along about three hun-  
dred people. In the group he took ten Delaware Indians  
as scouts and hunters. Here are the names of those he  
took along, George Washington, Andy Miller, James Harri-  
son, Wa-hoo-ney, John Moses, Jacob Kneas, Good Traveller,  
Solomon Everett, John Smith and James Wolf.

The following is a true copy of the agreement that  
Mr. Fremont drew up and which was signed by him and a  
man by the name of Jim Secondine. Secondine was then  
Chief of the Delawares at the time this trip was made.

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The agreement is as follows and stated that Jim Secondine was to furnish John C. Fremont with ten Delaware hunters all good men:

Westport, Missouri, September 16, 1853.

I have this day made arrangements through Jim Secondine by which ten Delaware hunters (good men) are to accompany me on my journey to California and back to this country. The ten Delawares are to furnish their own animals also, and are each to be paid two dollars (\$2.00) a day. They are to provide themselves with good animals, and if any of the animals should die upon the road, I am to pay for the loss. They will, of course, be furnished by me with ammunition and saddles which are furnished to them by me, all at my cost.

Signed "John C. Fremont"

The people who made the trip had some dreadful times before they got back to this country. They were snow-bound in from fifteen to thirty feet of snow, and almost starved to death. They would be sitting around the fire and would get so hungry that they would take out their hunting knives and cut a piece out of the

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tops of their boots, and put it on a stick and held it over the fire and cook it a little and then eat it. They even killed some of their horses and mules and ate them. A lot of the animals starved or froze to death before they got to their destination. In fact, they got through the trip with just one white mule which belonged to Wa-hoo-ney. This man, Wa-hoo-ney, is father to Mrs. Julia Hall and he had no other name than Wa-hoo-ney until, however, Fremont named him George Washington also the name of Mrs. Hall's brother. because he was a good scout, and a brave man. Mrs. Hall said she well remembered her father telling of one time on the trip that he ran a buffalo into camp and killed it right in front of Mr. Fremont. Another time they were all snow-bound and out of something to eat and Wa-hoo-ney and three other men went out and were trying to kill something to eat, when they found a large cave. In this cave, they found three big black bears, but all they had taken along was their war clubs and hunting knives. Each one of the men would take his turn in going into the cave and killing a bear. After they

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had killed all three of the bears, they all had a good feast. Then they went back to camp and told the rest of the people what they had killed. Most of the men folks broke out in a run to reach the cave and get the meat. They brought it into camp and that night everybody had a good feed. Mr. Fremont was a good man for they never ate a meal without his returning thanks. When Mr. Fremont and his crowd got to California most all of the people were so hungry that the first thing Mr. Fremont did was to go to a hotel and order a bunch of chickens killed. He wanted a pot of soup made, and while they were killing the chickens in the back yard of the hotel some of the men folks would lay down and drink the blood from off of the ground. This is a copy out of a paper at Fairland, of the death of George Washington or Wa-hoo-nay at his residence near Fairland, Indian Territory, at three o'clock A.M., October 24, 1892:

"George Washington, Delaware Chief, and for years a scout on the plains. Mr. Washington, was General Fremont's Chief scout and guide when he made his first trip across the plains away back in the forty's. He

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was one of the Lannhanapa of Cooper, in his Leather Stocking series of novels and has now gone over to join his old commander on the other shore. He died of old age, having been blind for years. Deceased requested that his old unique tomhawk and pipe combined, weasel skin tobacco pouch and knife be buried with him and his feet turned "westward".