

KING, THOMAS P.

INTERVIEW

#7683

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Nettie Cain,
Interviewer.
Sept. 21, 1937.

An Interview With Thomas P. King.

Thomas P. King, white, Holdenville, was born near Franklin, Tennessee, in December 27, 1859, and came to the Indian Territory in 1883, locating near Pryor.

He worked on a ranch for a Presbyterian preacher named Thompson who was part Indian.

After a year on the ranch King went back into Kansas and came back to Oklahoma in January 1st, 1889, working on a farm and later on, on the railroad.

He located in the Seminole Nation in 1892 and was appointed United States Marshal.

While he was United States Marshal, Cap. Willie killed a man and King and George Thornton, another United States Marshal, went to Willie's house to arrest him.

Cap Willie shot Thornton's horse from under him and they thought they would have trouble with him but he gave up.

In 1898, Mr. King served nine months in jail at Muskogee. This was the time when two Indian boys killed a white woman near Maud and Tom King was accused but was never proven guilty; he was told that if he would give

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himself up he would be freed in thirty days.

Tom King was a mail carrier from Wewoka to a post office just below Holdenville named Lumbee. John Marks, a Squawman was the postmaster and the last trip Tom made when he reached Lumbee, Marks had moved to Holdenville, and the post office at Lumbee had been discontinued, so he had to come back to Holdenville and Marks could not accept the mail so he had to take it back to Wewoka.

In 1900 Johnson Miller an Indian man killed a cowboy five miles southeast of Holdenville and partly burned his body. The body was found about a week later. Mr. King helped to bury the body of this cowboy.

A short time later Johnson Miller killed an old man named Cherry. Then Johnson Miller went to the home of Robert Stewart. That night a mob of six cowboys went to the Stewart home. When they asked for the Indian boy, Johnson Miller ran off but they shot and killed him.

This was on New Year's Eve and next morning several white people went to the Stewart home. Mrs. Stewart said she had recognized Tom King as one of the cowboys but Mrs. Loyd Thomas told her that she was mistaken as Tom

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was at her house attending a watch party at which they were watching the Old Year out and New Year in.

We thought that this trouble was caused from the burning of the two Indian boys as the Indians had put out some warnings that if a white man was caught near the Indian grounds he would be killed and burned.

No further trouble developed between the Indians and the white men.