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INTERVIEW.

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INTERVIEW WITH Sam Vann, Ex-Slave,
Vinita, Oklahoma, Gen. Del.

My name is Sam Vann. I now live on North Vann Street,
Vinita, Oklahoma, and get my mail at General Delivery.

I was born one mile south of Dave Rowe's old place,
in Saline District, Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory, in
the year of 1851, and I am 86 years old.

My father's name was Rufus Vann. He belonged to Joe
Vann, who lived one mile east of Locust Grove, on Big
Saline Creek, Saline district, Cherokee Nation. Joe Vann
married two of Dave Rowe's girls, Catherine and Elizabeth
Rowe.

My mother's name was Lucy, and she and her eleven
children belonged to Jonathan Webber, who married Nannie
Wofford. Jonathan Webber was the son of David Webber and
Margaret Vann.

Jonathan Webber lived one fourth mile south of the
big spring, now in front of the Elm Grove Cemetery, which
was established before the Civil War by Avery Vann, father
of Margurite Webber.

My parents both were slaves of Avery Vann, and after
his death his slaves were divided up among his children, and
that is how my father was separated from his family. He lived

them shortly after the Cherokees arrived here from Georgia. David was a politician and held a good many offices under the Cherokee government. His first office, after the war was Judge of the Northern district, which was made up of Saline, Delaware and Cooweescoowee districts. He held that four years, and later was elected to the National council, and still later he became Assistant Chief.

Dave Rowe had a big cattle ranch five miles west of Pryor, at the foot of a big hill, on the south side of the hill, and he had cattle scattered from his home in Saline district to his ranch west of Grand river, a distance of more than twenty miles.

DANIEL WEBSTER VANN

Daniel Webster Vann was a Confederate soldier during the war, and afterwards married the oldest daughter of Dave Rowe, Clarinda, and fell heir to the old ranch place of David Rowe five miles west of Pryor. He went into the cattle business himself, after his marriage and become quite wealthy. He also served in the Cherokee council several terms.

Webb Vann, as he was known by his neighbors, built a fine rock house at the southeast corner of the big hill west of Pryor.

made of the native sand stone, taken from the hill all around his house. The house will stand as a monument to him for generations. He died and was buried at Fryor.

JOSEPH LYNCH MARTIN

I was well acquainted with Joseph Lynch Martin. He lived across Grand river from the Joe Vann place, at Greenbriar. Joseph Lynch Martin was one of a family of seventeen children, and had fifteen children himself, by five different wives. He was the largest slave owner I knew, and was a hard master. Aunt Juno Martin, one of his slaves who died in Vinita a short time ago, had marks on her back where he had whipped her to her dying day.

Joseph Lynch Martin's five wives were; Julia Lombard, Sallie Childers, Lucy Rogers, Caroline Garrett and Jennie Harlin, and he had children by them all. One of them, Lucy Rogers, was an Osage, and has grandchildren drawing Osage money yet. They are Richard (Jack) Martin, R. Lee Martin, Emory Martin and Nora (Martin) Rogers.

Joseph Lynch Martin had four plantations up and down Grand river, the first at his old home, near Greenbriar; the next one near the mouth of Rock Creek, where his son

Dick Martin lived after the war; the Old Hooley Bell place on Cabin Creek near the Old Cabin Creek battle ground; and the Old Bill Davis place, near Ketchum, where the Contention school house was built before the war.

The Contention school house was one of the oldest national schools to be established in this part of the country. It was under the supervision of the National school board at Tahlequah, and continued until long after the war.

Joseph Lynch Martin had a store at the Contention school house, which was run by Brice Adair. He was considered a very rich man before the war.

LOUSES SLAVES IN WAR

It was early in the 60's when the Northern soldiers made a drive down through the Indian Territory and set all the slaves that wanted to go free. It was then Joe Martin lost every slave he had, as well as many horses and cattle. He sold his plantations off after the war, but remained on his old Greenbriar estate, where he raised a family by his last wife, Jennie Harlen, and died practically a poor man.

His son, Richard L. Martin, got the Rock creek plantation, located a few miles west of Pensacola, where one of James S. Wilson's sons now lives. Hooley Bell bought his "Old Battle Ground" place, and later sold it to Fred Chouteau, when the Shawnees came down from Kansas. It is now owned by J. M. Carroll, Big Cabin, route I.

Bill Davis, another early day Cherokee senator, bought the old Contention school house place. He sold a part of it to the Adventists who located in the neighborhood, and they built a school and church on the place, which is still in operation.

MARTIN SLAVES

William Martin was one of Joseph Lynch's slaves. He was the father of four sons and three daughters as follows; Fred, Tobe, Louis and Bailey Houston, Betsey, Emma and Rhoda. They all returned from Kansas after the war and settled on Grand river, southeast of Vinita. Only three, out of 13 born, are now living. They were born after the war and are living at Vinita.

I (Sam Vann) only have three children living out of eleven born; they are; Liss, Bruce and Nolan, all of Vinita, Oklahoma.

MASON AND DIXON LINE

One thing the colored folks learned, when they went to Kansas was where the Mason and Dixon line was located. We crossed it three miles south of Chetopa, Kan., and for the northern part of the Indian Territory, it would be the boundry^a line between Kansas and Oklahoma.

Most all the slaves returned after the war and when allotment came we were given an equal allotment with the Cherokees.