

WOODY, STEPHEN A.

INTERVIEW.

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Field worker; Amelia Harris

Story by Stephen A. Woody (white)
417 West 15th Street,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Born De Lonaga, Georgia,
December 10, 1869.

Parents Father, J. C. Woody, Georgia.
Mother, Rosie Woody, Georgia.

SPRINGS AT LAWTON.

There is a fine Spring of water near the old Fort Sill or Rodziminski and close to Otter Creek. This famous Spring is known as Comanche Springs, and the Government years ago maintained a Cantonment there. This is evidenced by an old stockade, and a deep ditch or tunnel (that a man could stand in and be concealed) ran from the fort down to the springs. The old walls or chimneys were built of stone. The Government stationed a troop here to try to quell the Kiowa and Comanche Indians.

This old spring is about one mile from the north fork of Red River and about eight miles above Devils Den. Later the Government built a cover over this spring.

The writer did some research work on the history of this spring and I hurriedly scanned the Oklahoma histories, and different books, and articles relative to Lawton and Fort Sill. But to no avail. The librarian at the Historical building became interested, and we both searched for half a day. Then the librarian remembered that a spring was mentioned many times in

the controversy of a boundry line between Oklahoma and Texas.

We got the court proceedure U. S. Versus Texas--143 U. S. 621.

There the writer found that the Government had established an old road from old Fort Sill to Fort Elliott, leading by the Comanche Springs. Indeed, I was glad to verify the history given me by Mr. Woody. This Spring was brought out very forcibly in establishment of the boundry line between Oklahoma and Texas in 1874. There was a cantonment there, and Capt. Van Dorn had a small regiment under his supervision to put an end to the depredations of the Comanche Indians. These findings should help me avoid one psychological pitfall that sometimes influences people, that of being a "doubting Thomas".