

DAVIS, CAROL MAT

HARVEY'S FOUNTAIN

8007

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INDEX CARDS

Harvey's Fountain  
Greer County  
Opening-1901

## LEGEND &amp; STORY FORM

8007.- 201

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field worker's name Ethel B. Tackitt.This report made on (date) July 20, 1937. 1937Lone Wolf, Kiowa County, Oklahoma.1. This legend was  
secured from (name) Carol Mat Davis.Address Lone Wolf, Kiowa County, Oklahoma.This person is (male or female) <sup>X</sup> <sup>X</sup> White, Negro, Indian,If Indian, give tribe Male - White.2. Origin and history of legend or story The Spring was used as a  
Camping Place for both Kiowa Indians and Whites from the earliest  
memory of the people.3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank  
sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets  
attached 3

Ethel B. Tackitt,  
Interviewer.

The spring of soft sweet water now known as Harvey's Fountain, is located in the NW corner of NE  $\frac{1}{2}$  Section 29, T 6 - R 20 - W, near the Memorial Bridge on North Fork of Red River, between Kiowa County and Greer County.

I own the land and take great pleasure in the fact that this spring continues to give comfort to all who happen to pass that way.

In the early days before the opening of the Kiowa Country in 1901, the Kiowa Indians made their homes along the valley of North Fork and many camped near this spring on account of the fine water which it supplied and from the fact that there was an abundance of wood and grass for their horses as well as fish in the river and wild fruit such as plums and grapes in the sand hills nearby, in their season.

As Greer County settled up, there was passing back and forth between Mangum and Fort Cobb and Anadarko in the Territory. The road came by this spring.

Water in that early time was always a problem as it had to be carried along in a keg if a person was traveling

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in a wagon or buckboard; or a canteen, if one was lucky enough to have one, otherwise one did without water from one spring or water hole to another. This was far from pleasant as the water holes often went dry and many of the springs were of gypsum or gyp water, so called by the early settlers.

The spring on North Fork, as it was called, became a well known camping place and people would plan their travel so that it could be made at the right time.

When the Rock Island Railroad was under construction between Chickasha and Mangum, George Austin and son Frank ran a water supply station at this place.

When the Kiowa Country was opened in 1901 and the town of Lone Wolf was established, water was a most serious problem, for all wells in the town, though very shallow, were found to be very hard gyp water or salt water.

Hauling water from this spring became <sup>a</sup>very profitable business and greater numbers of people camped here.

The spring was enlarged and a wooden box about four feet square was made the wall.

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A man by the name of C. E. Childress got the claim just joining me on the north and he decided that the spring was on his land and he did not want people camping there or getting water there, so he ordered some men working for him to take a scraper and fill it up. They filled it up.

I looked the ground over, picked out a place which I was sure was across on my side of the line and dug out the spring over on my land, and there it is today.

Everybody is welcome to all the water they want. When the road was made, the O. T. Trail, a concrete wall was built around the spring and it was named Harvey's Fountain.

(O. T. - OZARK TRAIL.)