

DAVENPORT, KATE ALLEN

INTERVIEW

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Courtney
United States Marshals
"700" Ranch House
Subscription School

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Jennie Selfridge, Interviewer.
September 23, 1937.

Interview with Kate Allen Davenport.
Courtney, Oklahoma
Born March 22, 1880, Spanish Fort, Texas.
Father-Dr. Samuel A. Allen
Mother-Eliza Jane Allen

Kate Allen Davenport was born at Spanish Fort, Texas, March 22, 1880, and played on the old earthen breast work which was thrown up there by the Spaniards at an early date.

There are eighty graves of murdered men buried at Spanish Fort. Three brothers are buried in one grave. Many of these men were from Indian Territory.

Superintendent H. F. Dearmore, of Spanish Fort, has made an extensive study of this section of the country and is always glad to give information on material he has collected.

Tom Patton Cave, which is mentioned in one of Dearmore's articles, is located west of Courtney. It is said that at one time there was a large sum of money found in this cave by some business men of Gainesville.

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Dr. Samuel A. Allen, of Spanish Fort, was the doctor at Courtney. On one occasion he was called to Courtney to doctor a boy who had been cut up at a dance. The boy died and Dr. Allen was taken to Fort Smith, Arkansas, where he was kept for nine weeks as a witness in the case.

Lois Hart and George Tucker, United States Marshals from Ardmore, used to attend all of the picnics held in the vicinity of Courtney. The picnics were large affairs and were attended by all of the settlers for miles around. The marshals would attend these picnics, driving down with their horses and buggies and a load of chains. They would stop in the creek bottom and go to the picnic grounds. As fast as a drunk would appear they would take him to the buggies and chain him up. When the picnic was over they would take these drunks and return to Ardmore.

Reverend J. W. Davenport, of Spanish Fort, preached the first sermon ever preached in Ardmore. It was in a log house, probably at the "700" ranch house.

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Joe Justine, who makes the famous Justine boots, went into business at Spanish Fort. He borrowed \$25.00 from his brother-in-law to go into business, and made the boots for Bill Baker of Grady, Indian Territory.

The early settlers at Courtney traded at Spanish Fort, and went to market at Gainesville, Texas.

There was quite a controversy at Courtney Flat with squatters; they were put out by the United States Government. Most of these people lived in half dug outs.

They had good subscription schools at Courtney for years before public schools were established.

The Courtney Cemetery was established at an early date, probably before the Civil War. All of the early markers were made from sandstone, and the inscriptions have all worn until it is impossible to make out the dates.