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Reuben Partridge, Field Worker

Indian-Pioneer History Project S-149

Supervisor

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JOBE'S PLACE

Interview with Nero Nevins-Cherokee Freedman

When peace was declared after the Civil War, a man by the name of Jobe started a trading post about forty two (42) miles east of Okmulgee, and mail was carried on horseback between the two points. At Jobe's place the store and post office was run by Jim Parkinson. Later another station was set up at Wellington, just half way between Jobe's place and Okmulgee, and four (4) miles west of Lee post office. When the railroad was built, the store at Wellington was moved to the Lee post office, which is now known as Bogart.

Jobe had plenty of money, hogs and cattle, and his place, which was a good sized settlement, was equipped with the things that Indians would buy, such as Indian shawls, moccasins, saddles, tanners, big wooden spoons used in making softe; groceries and calico. When the N. K. and T. Railroad came through west of Jobe's place, a man by the name of "Breeback" bought Jobe's stock of goods and moved it to Muskogee, but left the buildings. At the time of the Cherokee payment there were to be seen a few old hewed log houses and chimneys still standing.

Indians trading at Jobe's place forded the Arkansas river at the Leecher and the Nevins ferries, and at one other rock crossing between the Leecher and the Nevins ferries.

NOTE: Jobe's trading post was between Bacone Indian College and the Arkansas river or between old Fort Davis which mounted the ancient Indian Lookout Mound and the Arkansas river- Thomas F. Meagher, Supervisor.

NEVINS, NERO. INTERVIEW
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The Ozark Trail.
As described by Nero Nevins.

The Ozark Trail got its name from the Ozark hills which are south and southwest from Gainesville, Texas. Beef cattle were driven over this trail through the Indian Territory to Kansas City, Kansas, to market. The cattle grazed, slowly, along the trail, being stopped at noon to rest, while the cowboys ate their lunch, and then came the afternoon drive which ended sometimes around four P.M., or sometimes as late as ten o'clock at night, according to the time they reached a watering place. Each hour during the night, cowboys would ride guard around the herd, to see that no dogs were near, and if the night was stormy, they rode guard every minute.

The trail goes from the Ozark hills to Gainesville, Texas, - on through Ardmore, Okla., - then crossing the Washita river, it goes across the country to Violet Springs, where the trail crosses the South Canadian river, - then on to Nuyaka square, a Creek Indian settlement, and over the Deep Fork river at Tiger crossing, about six miles west of Sharp, Okla., this Tiger crossing was named after Motey Tiger, who was at one time Chief of the Muskogee or Creek nation, and who lived near this crossing. From there the trail goes on the west side of Okmulgee, Okla., to the Bald Hills near the F.S. ranch, which belonged to Fred Severs who had two big General Merchandise stores, one at Muskogee, and one at Okmulgee. From Bald Hills, the trail

goes by the Wealaka Mission, and crosses the Arkansas river there. The crossing, formerly, had been east of Stone Bluff, Okla., near the Joseph Mingo Ferry, but on account of the quicksand there, cattle and horses had been lost, and they made the change to Wealaka. After crossing at Wealaka, the Ozark trail goes northeasterly to Claremore, and from there to Coffeyville, Kansas. The trail switches also, going from Claremore to the Spavinaw lakes and then on to Coffeyville, Kansas. This is as far as Nero Nevins, IOI7 N. Frankfort, Tulsa, went with the cattle, so he could not give the route followed through the state of Kansas, to Kansas City.