

HAYNES, ALEX.

INTERVIEW

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Billie Byrd,
Field Worker,
May 21, 1937.

An Interview With Alex Haynes,
Aged 58, Colored, Okemah, Okla.

SLAVE DAYS.

My father, William Haynes, and my mother, Cynthia Haynes, often told about the many punishments inflicted upon slaves.

Some slaves were not full blood negroes as some had intermixed with the Indian or white. My father's mother, Minnie Haynes, was part Creek and my mother, Cynthia Haynes, was one-quarter Creek while Cynthia Haynes' grandmother, Betty Gray, was one-half blood Creek.

There were many times that a colored man and wife were brought by a white or Indian. The slave man would then be put to work in the fields or some place outside of the home, while the woman was kept at the house, especially if her physical appearance was healthy and strongly built. This colored woman would then bear children for her master, thus resulting in mixed blood.

4 Slave sales were advertised in the newspapers. The newspaper would state that so many slaves were to be sold "on the stump".

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Physical appearance was one of the main things noted when slaves were bought, even though they be short, small, tall, slim or fat.

Some slaves were sold for \$300 on up to \$1,000.00. There was a classed group of some of the largest and vigorous of the negro men as bucks. They sold for \$1,000 and were mainly for breeding purposes.

My father has said he was sold for \$350.00. After my father and mother were bought they were required to do different kinds of hard work.

The master one time told my father if he would pick 500 pounds of cotton in one day he would get paid 50 cents a hundred. My father said that he thought this was a lot of money because he had been working for nothing. Although he picked the 500 pounds and received the pay, this was only a test to see if he was able to pick that much cotton in one day. He was told to pick 500 pounds of cotton each day after but he never could. My father was whipped until the blood came because he could not pick the 500 pounds of cotton.

My father has said the he came through the slave days with much whipping and blood shed.