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The following legend and photograph was photocopied by Cindy W. Nelson at the Mississippi Department of Archives & History's Special Collections Section. It was retrieved from PI/WPA/Tishomingo Folder/No. 2. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) workers were listed as follows: Mary Ethel Dismukes, Photographer; Mattie M. Hodge, Historian; and Supt. Frank Berry, Forester. The legend was transcribed by RaNae S. Vaughn.



The above photograph was taken from the bridge across Mackey's Creek, from the east side looking to the northwest. This following legend of Bay Springs has been known as "Lover's Leap."

Legend of Bay Springs—Lover's Leap

When the Indians roamed the beautiful hills of northeast Mississippi, an Indian chief and his sweetheart used to meet upon a ledge of rock and whisper that "old, old story—story born of Eden itself." Then the brave went to war, and while he was away, his sweet heart would go alone and stand upon the ledge of rock to indulge in the beautiful visions of that day when her brave would return. On that day, he would again linger with her upon the rock, while the waters below would chatter sweet songs of love for them. When the warriors returned, the maiden looked eagerly to see the handsome form of him she loved best, and when the form she longed to see was absent, her heart was sorely afflicted. Somewhere in the enemy's land, the bones of her love were bleaching in the sunshine. She repaired to the ledge, and then realized that all her interests were gone. She walked to the edge, raised her arms above her head, and her long black tresses waved as she leaped over the rocks into the angry waters to join her lover.