

SCHOOLEY, R. B.

INTERVIEW

10311

426

BIOGRAPHY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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Field Worker's name Lillian Gassaway.

This report made on (date) March 22, 1938. 193  

1. Name R. B. Schooley.

2. Post Office Address Anadarko, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 208 North 6th Street.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February. Day 21 Year 1870.

5. Place of birth Texas.

6. Name of Father William Schooley. Place of birth North Carolina.

Other information about father

7. Name of Mother Sarah Bowman Schooley. Place of birth Missouri.

Other information about mother

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach, firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached .

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Lillian Gassaway,  
Investigator,  
March 22, 1938.

Interview With R. B. Schooley,  
Anadarko, Oklahoma.

I came to the Territory in 1889 but went back to Fort Worth the day before the Run for I was only a boy and not old enough to stake a claim. I had come with an older man to the Territory. I had sold my horse, saddle and Winchester and this man was afraid that I might be robbed so he advised me to go back to Fort Worth.

I came back to the Territory in 1891 and settled on a farm about twenty-five miles from Purcell, near the town of Avoca which was eight miles west of Sacred Heart Mission. Avoca was not on the railroad and when Asher was built and the railroad was built through it most of Avoca moved to Asher which was about two miles south.

When we first came to Oklahoma we lived in a half-dugout house for a while, then in a log house covered with clapboards. Pottawatomie County used to be a fine country for the poor man. The country was rough and was very thinly settled. There was all sorts of wild game and the

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country was fine for farming. All sorts of crops were raised and garden products did well there. Things kept well for winter use such as cabbage, potatoes and other things. There was plenty of game for the Indians only killed what they needed for food, but after the white man came the game was soon killed out.

The horse thieves were bad in the early days. So there was an association formed called the Anti-Horse Thief Association. All horses were to be branded with a C on the left jaw and papers were made out on these horses. If a person was found in possession of one of these horses and couldn't show the proper papers he was dealt with accordingly. The thief would get the horse during the night sometime and would take it to some designated spot where he would turn it over to another man who would take it to some one else, and so on until it would be out of reach. After the first man turned the horse to the next man, he would get back home before the next morning. The cattle thieves were bad, too.

The Mounts Brothers were killed near Avoca for their money. They said that they made lots of money but lost it

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as fast as they made. Their bodies lay for three days and nights before they were found. I was the second man to them; one was still hanging and the other had been torn badly by the wild animals. People thought they had more money than they let on to have, but when their books were examined it was found that they had told the truth.

I was in Oklahoma City at the trial of McGloffin for the murder of the Mounts Brothers when the Christian Boys broke out of jail. They were never caught again and Mr. McGloffin was cleared of the charge.

It was about this time that the Indians gave the white people a little trouble. They committed some kind of serious depredations, among which was the killing of a white woman for which the leaders were burned. Among them was Governor Brown's son. We had very little trouble with the Pottawatomie Indians, though. We farmers were always prepared if trouble came up and the Indians knew it so they gave us very little trouble.

I used to sell cattle and other produce to the Sacred Heart Mission. There were two priests there at that time,

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Father Louis and Father Cleo, both Frenchmen. There was another school east of Sacred Heart near the post office of Georgetown but I was never there and I don't know its name.

I moved to Fox, Indian Territory, in 1896 and lived there until 1906 when I entered the railroad service. I served as section foreman for the Rock Island in Faxon, Lawton, Hastings, Temple, Mangum and Anadarko.