

FOWLER, E.

SECOND INTERVIEW

10451

365

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

FOWLER, E.**SECOND INTERVIEW.****10451.**Field Worker's name Lillian Gassaway.This report made on (date) April 11, 1938. 19381. Name E. Fowler.2. Post Office Address Anadarko, Oklahoma.3. Residence address (or location) 201 West Kentucky Avenue.4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 25 Year 1866.5. Place of birth Buffalo, New York.6. Name of Father Thomas Fowler. Place of birth Ireland.

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Margaret O'Conner. Place of birth Ireland.

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 _____.

FOWLER, E.

SECOND INTERVIEW.

10451.

Lillian Cassaway,
Investigator,
April 11, 1938.

An Interview With E. Fowler,
Anadarko, Oklahoma.

In the early days the gangsters were bad. There were gangs of bank robbers, horse thieves and all kinds of outlaws. Jim Bolen at one time had been a member of a gang of bank robbers, and had been caught and taken to Guthrie and put in jail. While there he reformed and was given his freedom providing he would lead the officers to the hideout of the outlaws; this he did. Later Bolen was made deputy sheriff under Jim Thompson and not long afterward he was appointed United States deputy marshal under Abernathy.

W. E. Smith was the first Caddo County sheriff. Smith had been notified one Sunday morning that a family on its way to Anadarko from west of town to church had been held up and robbed by someone. They didn't know who it was but Smith and his deputies, Beck and Cooper, started out to get the gang. The jailer went along, too. Not knowing who they were looking for, they went to what they

FOWLER, E.

SECOND INTERVIEW.

10451.

-2-

thought was a farm house to make inquiry. This happened to be a hangout for Casey's gang. When Smith and Beck came up, the men thought that they were after them and opened fire and killed both the sheriff and Beck. The jailor, John Burger, and Cooper escaped. No one knew what gang this was but thought it was Hudson's. Bolen went after Hudson. I ran a livery stable at that time and I had let out three horses to men going on this hunt for Hudson. I decided that I would go along to look after my horses more than anything else. I went with Charlie Cooper, a deputy. One night we slept on the ground in some tall grass. The next morning I got up and looked around. I told Cooper that the gang could have taken our horses, saddles and us without any trouble at all. Hudson had gone to Arkansas and Bolen went after him there. In some way he got Hudson over into Oklahoma and arrested him for the murder of Smith and his deputy Beck. Hudson was taken to Guthrie for trial. Some say that he got out on bond and others say that he was cleared, anyway Hudson vowed that Bolen would pay for double-crossing him. I was with Jim Bolen the day he was shot. We had

FOWLER, E.

SECOND INTERVIEW.

10451.

-3-

walked down the street together to the Robinson Saloon, which was also a hotel, to get a glass of beer apiece. Everyone knew that Hudson was out for Bolen, so no one was surprised when Hudson came into the saloon. They began shooting at each other. Bolen was shot through the stomach and Hudson through the leg. Bolen was taken to the kitchen of the hotel and Hudson was taken to a room across the street. Dr. Boyd was called to see Bolen and I think that Dr. Mitchell came with him. The doctor would visit one and then the other. Each one would ask about the other and express in no uncertain words his desire that the other should die. Bolen did die the next day. Hudson had to have his leg amputated. Then gangrene set in and in a few days he died, so they both got their wish that the other should die.