

FOI, CHARLES B.

INTERVIEW

#9448

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LEGEND & STORY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma
FOX, CHARLES B. INTERVIEW 9448

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Field worker's name Robert H. Boatman

This report made on (date) December 15 1937

1. This legend was secured from (name) Charles B. Fox

Address Newcastle, Oklahoma.

This person is (male or female) White, Negro, Indian,

If Indian, give tribe _____

2. Origin and history of legend or story _____

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached _____

Robert H. Boatman
Investigator
December 15, 1937

Interview with
Charles B. Fox
Newcastle, Oklahoma.

I was born in the state of Tennessee, December 6, 1869, leaving Tennessee at the age of twenty years in 1889. I moved to Texas for the purpose of entering into the business of stockraising, and since my very early boyhood days this had been my dream.

Then it was that so much was being heard of the new country known as the Indian Territory. In 1893 I again moved, coming to the Territory and after some time settled at Bradley, a place on the Washita River in the Chickasaw Nation.

My journey from Texas was one of an unusual nature as I came in a cattle car with some cattle. I drove the cattle to their destination and began working for the Lanier Brothers.

The Lanier Brothers were the largest ranchers in the Territory. They owned the Hippo Ranch, four miles southwest of where Blanchard now is. They branded all their

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stock on the hip with an O.

I attended a wedding dance of a daughter of one of the adjoining ranchers. The crowd assembled and the dancing began about sundown. The cowboys were gaudily dressed in bright checked or striped shirts, boots blacked, and all were in the mood to pay court to all the unmarried ladies present. The girls were all dressed in their best with their fullest skirts and biggest bonnets. The fiddlers usually had plenty of "strong water" to drink, as well as did others. They danced all night and by morning both young and old were participating in the gala event. They prepared a breakfast, coffee and beef, and gradually everyone went home. Affairs of this nature were only held occasionally and were attended by all.

The round-ups and ranch life in general was conducted on the Hippo Ranch in the same manner as those on any other ranch except on a larger scale. As the Lanier Brothers had two foremen they had difficulty in finding two men who were willing to work together.

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In 1893 I made the Run into the Cherokee Strip but was unsuccessful. The race was made by every possible means; on horseback, in wagons, buggies, trains and afoot. There was graft, hard feeling and even bloodshed over claims. Almost overnight a town of tents sprang up.

I now live at Newcastle where I am engaged in farming and stock raising at the home where I have lived since the abandonment of the famous Hippo Ranch.