

GOTT, JOHN R. INTERVIEW

H 158

INDEX CARDS

Ranching--Indian Territory
Caddoes
Measles--Caddoes
Medicine--Caddo

GOET, JOHN R. INTERVIEW

Field worker: Maurice R. Anderson
March 20, 1937

1118 59

BIOGRAPHY OF John R. Gott (White)
Pauls Valley, Oklahoma

BORN 1875 in Texas

PARENTS: Father: R. G. Gott, born in Tennessee
Mother: Rhode Farmer, born in Arkansas.

I came to Indian Territory in 1895. I owned my horse and saddle² and I was just roaming around over the country. I went to work on the Bill Stone Ranch located in the Sugar loaf Mountains in the Comanche Nation, Indian Territory. Mr. Bill Stone was a big cattle raiser. I worked for Mr. Stone three years at thirty dollars a month and board. I was general roustabout. I have helped round yearlings up and brand them. My main job was chasing wolves, I had a high powered rifle and I have killed as high as ten wolves in a day. On several days I have seen them in packs from ten to fifteen, the wolves were bad about killing calves. I have found several yearlings about half eaten by the wolves. One time I rode up on a pack of wolves eating a yearling-they would eat a while and fight a while. The wind was blowing hard from the north and I was riding to the north, that was why the wolves didn't see me. I got off of my horse, took my Winchester, crawled up in about

a hundred yards of them, got behind a big rock, and killed 8
out of this pack. One time Mr. Stone wanted me to go with
him near Fort Cobb, to see about buying some saddle horses he
said. We came upon a group of Caddo Indians, on the Washita
River near Fort Cobb, They had some kind of fever and the
measles. The Indians were going in the river to cool the
fever and in five minutes after one would come out of the water,
he would die. We stayed there about one hour and I counted
about 25 dead Indians. I could not understand them but Mr. Stone
could; they talked with their hands mostly, would point and
wave their hands around. Mr. Stone told them that going into
the water was what was killing them. Mr. Stone finally got
them stopped and we went on. Mr. Stone told me if he hadn't
got them stopped everyone of them would have died. Mr. Stone
didn't buy any horses at that time. I have seen corn piled
up high as three or four thousand bushels in one pile. In
1899 I went over in the eastern part of the Indian Territory,
around McAlester, I worked on farms and in the coal mines,
until after statehood. Then I came back and settled at
Pauls Valley, where I now live.

(E ND)