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FIELD WORKER Ruth Kerbo
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INTERVIEW WITH K.W. Lanford
Mangum, Oklahoma. Route 1,
14 miles South West of Mangum.
Born January 11, 1863. Lawrence County,
South Carolina.

Father's name Alexander Lanford
Born South Carolina
Mother's name Jane Morgan
Born South Carolina.

Mr. K. W. Lanford came to Greer County with his family in 1890, from Denton County, Texas. Mr. M.P. Veach and family and W. R. Parkey and family came with them and all three families settled in the Bloomington community, 15 miles northwest of Mangum near Jester.

We brought a bedstead, our bedding and chairs, cook stove, tub and rub board, a lamp 15 head of cattle and 6 horses.

There was nothing on the place and we set to work to make a dug-out to live in. It did not extend above the ground with a framework, with windows, but was flat like a cellar with a log in the middle for a ridge pole and other logs thrown across it and earth thrown on the top of the logs for a roof. It had a door which opened back like a cellar door. "No snakes or centipedes bothered us in there," Mr. Lanford said.

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We were from the 4th of July until September coming from Denton county, camping along the way. One thing the family possessed was a skillet and lid or dutch oven which they used to cook their food in while camping and after they arrived also. One night on their way, the lid for their skillet got broken, and Mrs. Lanford found a thin flat rock, which she used to replace the lid. She would heat the rock in the camp fire, put it on the skillet and put hot coals on top and her bread would bake very nicely.

The family ate antelope for meat, as there were still a few left in the country. The Jaybuckle springs furnished water for them. Mr. Lanford hauled water from the Jaybuckle springs, and always when two men made a trade the water barrels were included in the trade as every body had to haul water and most of it from the Jaybuckle spring.

"If a man was leaving the country he didn't need to take his water barrels along, but the man who stayed did need them." Mr. Lanford said.

The citizens of the Jester community wanted to build a church at Jester. The cowboys agreed to furnish the lumber if the citizens would grant them the privilege of having dances in the building when they wanted to. The agreement

was made, the lumber hauled out from Quanah and the citizens built the church. Often times the cowboys would have an all night dance on Saturday night and then the citizens would have Sunday School and preaching on Sunday morning. Eventually the citizens decided it did not seem right to have dances in the church and with much difficulty had them stopped.

Mr. Lanford broke his land with an old time sod plow drawn by two horses. The plow had three crooked rods back from the point of the plow which caused the sod to turn over and lie flat. Someone would follow along behind the plow and punch holes in the freshly plowed sod and drop down the seeds for their crops. A section harrow was dragged over the sod to cover up the seeds.

Mr. Lanford planted the seed for an orchard in this manner. "Some of the trees may be living today," Mr. Lanford said.

Crops were good for several years.

I stayed on this place near Vinson 1 year then moved west of Reed in the Sulphur community, and later sold out to Frank Simpson for \$950 cash. I then traded three ponies for 320 acres of land, all the farming equipment, geese, dogs and water barrels. This location was 1 mile north of the present site of Russell.

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I established a store there on my place, was the first merchant in the Russell community. The store bore the name of Rynklesok. A trading point. H. D. Lee was responsible for the peculiar name. He went to the store one night and found Mr. Lanford counting his day's receipts. He had no safe or cash drawer and used a sock to keep his money in. The sock was wrinkled from much handling and when Mr. Lee saw it he conceived a name for the store, and figured out the way to spell Rynklesok.

I hauled my supplies from the Kemp Grocery company at Quannah. I traded a little boy some candy for his cat one day and soon the boy came back for more candy but didn't have any money, so I traded him candy for all his clothes," he had a big sack of candy, but no clothes," Mr. Lanford said.

There was usually plenty of wild plums. We would gather all we could use. Had plenty of wood and grubs for fuel.

We could gather up a load of bones and take them to Quannah if we needed any money. Bones were \$6.00 a ton. Arbuckle coffee was 14 pounds for \$1.00; sugar was 12 pounds for \$1.00, bacon was cheap. Turkey hens were 25 cents each. Toms were 75 cents each. Nobody sold chickens and if eggs

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were cheaper than 5 cents a dozen I quit buying them."

Mr. Lanford said.

One time we filled a crock churn with butter, dug a hole in the ground about three feet deep, put a lid on the churn and turned it upside down and put it into that hole. we left that butter there for nearly a year, when we removed it. it was as fresh as when we put it there. It could drain and the temperature was the same all the time. That was an experiment. And we had always heard that ripe plums would keep fresh for a long time if they were submerged in rain water. We tried that experiment and believe it would have been all right if we had only used a stone jar instead of a barrel to put them in. The hoops were eaten into by the acid from the fruit, letting the barrel spread and the water leaked out.

There were 65 cases of measles in the community at one time, with never a case lost. A new Doctor had moved into the country, 2 miles south of Russell, and is living there on the same place yet.

Yearlings sold for \$8 to \$12, good cows \$15 \$17,
White face cows \$25. to \$75.

In 1892 Mr. Lanford traded a pony for a sorghum mill, and moved it to his home where he made sorghum molasses. Cane grew fine in the new country and the syrup was finely flavored.

The first school house in the country was located a mile south of Russell. It was a one room structure, one teacher school. The seats were long slat benches. "Eight or ten kids could sit on one seat," Mr. Lanford said. Later the school house burned and when it was replaced the school board wanted to make a cistern to furnish the water supply for the school. A pie supper was given to secure the money with which to make the cistern. A cake was put up and sold for the prettiest girl. It brought \$65.00. There was plenty of money for the cistern and for the water trough!

When we had to ford the river, we would round up a bunch of cattle and drive them across first to pack the sand. If there were no cattle near, we would often ride our horses across several times. On one occasion I bought a load of grubs for \$1.00 to make a bridge across the ford so I could cross with some freight. Once I stuck in the river while freighting from Guanah and was two hours getting out. One

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man never passed another stuck up in the river. We would all stay and help each other out. I saw wagons stuck in the mud from Russell to Red river one Christmas, the settlers had gone to Guanah and a snow storm came up and when the snow began to melt the trail would almost be impassable. Sometime the settlers would stick their wagons in the mud and if it wasn't very many miles home, he would take his teams loose from the wagons and leave them setting there until the roads dried up. Nothing was bothered in the wagon until he returned for it.

I believe there was an Indian camp 1 mile north and 1 half mile east of Russell. I have found arrow heads there on the highest spot. ~~I knew of a~~

I knew of a lone grave west of Sulphur, near Reed. I suppose it is the grave of a cowboy. I found on the board at the head of the grave (A.B. Bryson-June 1882). The board resembled a lid from a feed box on a wagon. "When I told someone about the grave he remarked "yes I think the young fellow got too smart." The grave has been plowed over for years.

The Lanfords moved to Mangum where Mr. Lanford ran a wagon yard for several years, then engaged in the produce

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business and was interested in a lumber yard and other business enterprizes.

Mr. Lanford and his two youngest sons operate a 640 acres farm in the Russell community.