

LAMBERT, A. A.

~~INTERVIEW~~

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

Field Worker's name Jasper H. Mead
 This report made on (date) September 27, 1937

1. Name A. A. Lambert
 2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Oklahoma
 3. Residence address (or location) 917 El Reno Avenue
 4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 6 Year 1880
 5. Place of birth In state of Texas

6. Name of Father J. F. Lambert Place of birth Missouri
 Other information about father Died at the age of 77
 7. Name of Mother Emiline Harvall Place of birth Tennessee
 Other information about mother Died young age 32

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 _____.

Jasper H. Mead
Investigator
September 27, 1937

Interview with A. A. Lambert
917 El Reno Avenue
Chickasha, Oklahoma.

My name is A. A. Lambert: I was born in Texas, February 6, 1880, about three miles from the Territory line, fifty-seven years ago and we moved on the Territory side when I was nine years old, and the first place we landed in the Territory was about eighteen miles east of the place now called Duncan.

At that time there was no town of Duncan but later there was a man named Duncan who started up a small store on what they now call Cow Creek and later the town of Duncan was named after this man.

There were three big ranchers named Lote Jackson, Hennessey and Fruit who used to raise race horses, and they would match horses several races for \$300.00 and \$400.00 apiece and six weeks after the horses were matched they would pull the races. I have seen two and three thousand people at these races and there wouldn't be a "law" within seventy-five or a hundred miles of the place.

All these races were "pulled" in what they called Mud Creek Bottom, at the Hurst Flat; there were several hundred

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head of hogs kept on this Hurst Flat at one time.

The main water supply came from shallow dug wells and springs; some of these wells were cased up with native stone but the biggest part of them were left without casing.

People in those days on the Territory side did not know what a school or church house was. If they had had schools and churches the people wouldn't have had time to go anyway.

In the year 1907 on the very day when Oklahoma became a state I was on the Territory side sitting under the shade of a tree playing stud poker.

The country around Duncan was mostly prairie land covered with grass, hip high to a tall man and there were also many heads of cattle on this land.

Farming was done on a very small scale because the country was open country and wild and ranch work was about all the work there was to be done and it paid \$30.00 per month board and room with a horse furnished.

The old Chisholm Trail crossed Red River three or four miles down the river below Terral at a place known then as the old Red River Station. The Chisholm Trail came on north across the Territory and passed Duncan two or three miles east of Duncan and went on still farther north until it reached Kansas City

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Missouri and Dodge City, Kansas.

Bill Stone was the man who owned the ranch eighteen miles east of Duncan. The only Indians that I ever saw around there were some Indians from whom some outlaws had stolen fifty or seventy-five head of horses and when this would happen the Government soldiers would come with the Indians and they would make a big search for the horses and sometimes the Indians and soldiers would be gone for five and six weeks on one of these hunts, but as a general rule these horses would be in some other state by the time the soldiers and Indians got to hunting for them.

All the "laws" we had were two United States Marshals and their names were Tom Lilley and Loss Hart. They didn't care how much we gambled or how much whiskey we drank; all they were looking for was for men who had robbed and killed people in other states.

A man named John Shrock who ran a saloon on Red River at a place called Old Spanish Fort, said that he lacked one day of ~~running this saloon for twenty-one years and during this time~~ he had seen forty-eight men killed. He told me that many a time he had handed a drink of whiskey over the bar to a man

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sitting on a horse and was glad to do it.

I have lived in Chickasha for twenty-four years and am now employed at the Chickasha Ice and Cold Storage Company.