

COLE, SAM

INTERVIEW

#9543

256

212

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

257

213

COLE, SAM.

INTERVIEW.

#9543.

Field Worker's name Raymond C. Jantz,

This report made on (date) December 28, 1937

1. Name Sam Cole,

2. Post Office Address Route #4, Anadarko, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 4 miles south of Anadarko.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 25 Year 1870.

5. Place of birth Lindale, Texas.

6. Name of Father W. S. Cole Place of birth Alabama.

Other information about father Farmer -Chambers County.

7. Name of Mother Eliza Speight Place of birth Alabama.

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 Three.

COLE, SAM.

INTERVIEW.

#9543.

Raymond C. Jantz,  
Investigator.  
December 28, 1937.

Interview with Sam Cole,  
Route #4, Anadarko, Oklahoma.

I came to Oklahoma in 1890. At that time one could travel from the Red River on the south to the Washita River on the north and never see a barbed wire fence.

In 1890 I went to work for a rancher named Jim Bounds. Bounds' Ranch covered practically all the land between the Red and Washita Rivers.

In those days there were some cattle and horse thieves. The Bill Watson gang was one of the worst. Bill Watson was the leader of this gang which was the reason that it was called the Watson gang. Bill was killed in 1893 by the Texas Rangers. He was killed over in the Indian Territory. Watson and his gang were camped on a stream with a bunch of stolen horses. They were surrounded by the Rangers and Watson was killed.

Willis Store and Post Office.

The Willis store and post office was our nearest trading post. This post did not handle hardware or saddles or ranch

COLE, SAM.

INTERVIEW.

#9543.

2

equipment. We bought most of our groceries from this store. For large quantities of groceries or ranch equipment we usually went to Denison, Texas.

#### Winchester 44.

In these days everyone carried a Winchester rifle. A Winchester was just as much a necessity as a coat in cold weather. Those who rode horses carried their Winchesters in boots or holsters and those who went in wagons or buggies carried their Winchesters in convenient places. Winchesters were carried to church as well as on the range.

#### The Church and School.

The church services in these days were held in the schoolhouses which were one room houses made of logs. A schoolhouse usually had a fireplace at each end. The seats were made of hewed logs and every child had a slate. They had to have slates for they could only get one tablet and one pencil per year.

#### Indians and Indian Law.

The Indians were somewhat settled by the time I came

COLE, SAM.

INTERVIEW.

#9543.

3

to the Territory although once there was a bunch of five Indians who stole some horses from the ranch but we gave chase. They abandoned the horses and "took off" across country. We never knew what tribe they belonged to because we did not get close enough to see them well.

The Indians had their own tribal laws. If an Indian turned traitor to his tribe he was taken to the chief and tried and sentenced to death. He was then turned loose. He would disappear and on the day he was to die he would come back to meet his doom. The Indians believed that if one ran away he was a coward and rather than to be a coward an Indian would come back.