

WILLIAM C. ROSS

INTERVIEW

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Chester A. Lamb
Field Worker
June 15, 1937

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Interview with C. Ross Hume
A resident of Anadarko, Oklahoma, since 1890.
Father-Charles R. Hume
Mother-Annette Ross.

We came from Caldwell, Kansas, to Anadarko, December 31, 1890. I was in my thirteenth year. My father was appointed Agency physician for the Kiowa Indians, at the Kiowa Agency. He had previously made the run into old Oklahoma and secured a claim one-half mile east of Hennessey, Oklahoma, which he relinquished and my aunt filed upon it.

We came as far as Minco on the Rock Island, and from there by hack to Anadarko. Our first home was a four room cottage which was built by the Government for the Agency employees. It was just a frame building. We brought our furniture from Caldwell, Kansas, down here when we came. At that time the fuel used here was wood.

EMPLOYMENT:

My first employment was clerking in an Indian Trader Store during the summer. At that time I was about sixteen or seventeen years of age. This store was located north of Anadarko, and was run by R. L. Boake.

EDUCATION:

I entered the University of Oklahoma in the first college class, in the fall of 1894, and was there until the spring of 1898 when I graduated in the first college class. In the winter of 1898 and 1899 I taught the eighth grade in the schools of Newkirk, Oklahoma. In the summer of 1899 and 1900 was again in the University, and received the first Master's Degree granted in 1900. During the year of 1901, I worked first with the government surveying crew, surveying Indian allotments, and later with the Rock Island Railroad surveying crew. In the summer of 1901, I read law in the office of County Attorney, H. D. Crosby, and part time in the office of Dyke Ballinger. In the fall of 1902, I entered Kansas University Law School and graduated in June of 1904. I returned to Oklahoma and located at Anadarko, and have been practicing here ever since. In 1907, I was Superintendent of the City Schools of Anadarko for four months. I was a member of the Anadarko

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School Board two years. In 1909, I was appointed Justice of the Peace in Anadarko. In 1910, I was elected County Judge of Caddo County and served from 1911 to 1914 inclusive.

In 1907, I was married to Miss Verne Gossard, who was a teacher in the Presbyterian Mission four miles east of Anadarko. We have three children: Ross G. Hume, now an attorney in Oklahoma City; Dorothy Hume Hammond, graduate of the University of Oklahoma School of Law; Betty V. Hume, a dietician in St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester, Minn.; Betty received Dad's cup and Letseizer Gold Medal as outstanding woman student at the University in 1935.

Experience with the Indians:

From 1890 to 1901, when the country was opened to settlement, the Indians came to the Agency every two weeks, and I was acquainted with many of them. I have many personal friends among the Indians. I am attorney for the Caddo Indians, and have many

personal friends among the other tribes on this reservation.

Game:

During the eleven years before the country opened to settlement, there were deer, turkey, prairie chicken, quail, and other game in abundance. The Washita River was full of fish.

Frontier Towns:

Caldwell, Kansas, where I lived for ten years before coming to Oklahoma, is three miles north of the state line, and was the first town in Kansas on the old Chisholm Trail. I have a recollection of the Concord stages, which came through from there to Darlington, Fort Reno, Anadarko, and Fort Sill. I also remember distinctly the freight which was taken from that point by Indians of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, and also Indians on this reservation. I was on the edge of the Strip when that was opened. I made the run with my grandfather, who secured a claim

one-half mile from the state line.

Relics:

I have a Genealogical Library which my mother purchased and I have quite a historical library which I have accumulated in my work with the Indians; also a large collection of about one thousand photographs.

Lodges and Churches:

I am a member of the Presbyterian Church, Masonic Lodge, Modern Woodman of America, Sons of the American Revolution, Massachusetts Society of the Mayflower, and one time director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.