

OLMSTEAD, WILLIAM H.

INTERVIEW

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Interview with William H. Olmstead

Investigator - Herbert T. Rogers
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149
October, 1937

IN THE EARLY '90'S.

Before the county was formed and was still M County, William H. Olmstead came to Waynoka and set up a small grocery store. His family lived in the rear of the building. His business grew; he then built again and in 1907 had the distinction of having the best building in Woods County. He owned about four hundred acres of land in Kansas. He also owned much land in Woods County. He had a beautiful home in Waynoka.

Mr. Olmstead had a ranch on the south side of the Cimarron River. He had a large herd of cattle on his ranch. Time after time cattle disappeared from the Olmstead ranch.

South and west of this ranch lived a man named Carl Romain and his wife and two small daughters. He lived on a hilly, red dirt ranch. This ranch had deep canyons and high banks near his house. From 1900-1906,

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Carl Romain travelled around the county selling beef from farm to farm.

One night Carl Romain was seated in his rocking chair near a window, his smaller daughter on his lap. The child, after awhile, got down and went in the other room. As she got into the other room a shot rang out and Carl Romain slumped over in his chair, dead.

A complete butchering pen was found on his farm. Paths led from the house into his pen. On a bed under the mattress on the springs were found cow hides. In the butchering pens were three or four beeves hung up already dressed. A number of hides were there also, with the Olmstead brand on them.

Blood hounds were put on the trail but they always went to one man but nothing was done with the man to whom the hounds went.