

HUME, C. ROSS

MASONIC LODGE, ANADARKO

#8531

348

BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

HUME, G. ROSS.

INTERVIEW.
MASONIC LODGE, ANADARKO.

8531.

Field Worker's name Lillian Cassaway.

This report made on (date) September 10, 1937.

1. Name G. Ross Hume.

2. Post Office Address 503 West Central Boulevard.

3. Residence address (or location) Anadarko, Oklahoma.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month April Day 30 Year 1878.

5. Place of birth Tonogany, Ohio.

6. Name of Father Dr. Chas. R. Hume. Place of birth New York.

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Annette Ross. Place of birth Ohio.

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 7.

HUME, C. ROSS.

MASONIC LODGE, ANADARKO.

8531.

Lillian Gassaway,
Interviewer,
Sept. 10, 1937.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ANADARKO
LODGE NO. 21, AND PERSONAL
RECOLLECTIONS OF THOMAS AND H.P.
PRUNER, COMPILED BY C. R. HUME.

Elm Springs Lodge No. 7, A. F. & A. M. at Erin Springs, Indian Territory, held its meetings in the second story of an old log schoolhouse, and when the craft assembled they pulled the ladder up before they opened lodge. Here nearly all the brothers who afterwards organized this lodge were initiated into the mysteries of Masonry. Each month for years faithful members in a radius of more than fifty miles attended the stated communications of the lodge whose jurisdiction covered half of our state.

Practically all the Anadarko charter members attended this lodge, which located near the present site of Lindsay. In time they tired of going 100 miles to lodge, and enough of them located near here decided that they would like to have a lodge of their own. This was about the beginning of 1884, but before they could apply for a dispensation, it was necessary to provide a meeting place. They donated enough funds to build the hall which stood east of the old jail near the edge of the hill. The

HUME, C. ROSS.

MASONIC LODGE, ANADARKO.

8531.

-2-

lumber was hauled from Stringtown, north of Caddo in the Choctaw Nation, and the building was completed about the time the dispensation was granted.

Some of those early faithful craftsmen lived beyond Minco, but were as faithful in coming here as they had been in going to Elm Springs, and seldom missed a communication. They made it an all night affair, and after lodge closed, had a midnight lunch, and either put on side degrees or tried to sleep until it was time to start home again.

The first meeting here was held July 12, 1884, under dispensation granted by the Grand Master of Indian Territory, and provided for the building. At the next meeting held on August 9, 1884, the first degree was conferred on Brother Frank Simmons. At the September meeting five candidates were elected to take the degrees, and two were conferred. This is the history while U. D.

The charter dated at Atoka, November 5, 1884, granted Thomas F. Woodard, Master; W. G. Williams, S. W.; W. M. Williams, J. W., Chas. Rider, Sec., H. P. Pruner, Montford T. Johnson, Chas. B. Campbell, and Roger Cornett, authority to work as Anadarko Lodge No. 21, A. F. & A. M. of Indian

HUME, C. ROSS.

MASONIC LODGE, ANADARKO.

8531.

-3-

Territory, and was signed by Edward Henry Doyle as Grand Master and attested by Joseph S. Murrow as Grand Secretary. On Saturday, December 13, 1884, Rt. Wor. John Coyle, Spl. Dept. Gr. M. installed the following officers of the lodge, and among the visitors was Br. P. A. Romick of Elm Springs Lodge No. 7.

Thos. F. Woodard, W. M. W. G. Williams, S. W.

M. T. Johnson, Treas. Chas. Rider, Sec'y.

W. M. Williams, J. D. Roger Cornett, Tyler.

H. P. Pruner, J. W.

C. E. Campbell, S. D.

At this meeting Bro. Frank Simmons was the first Master Mason raised in the lodge.

The early minutes show that lodge began labor at 7:00 P. M., and that adjournment was generally at midnight. Stated communications were held each month, and February 14, 1885, a resolution was passed thanking Brother Murrow for the gift of the Bible which still adorns our altar. March 14, 1885, Brother Phil A. Romick became the first affiliate member of the lodge, and the next month Timothy C. Peet whom many of us know was elected to take the degrees. At the June meeting

HUME, C. ROSS.

MASONIC LODGE, ANADARKO.

8531.

-4-

the second set of officers were elected and Brother H.P. Pruner became the Master of the Lodge. The cost of the degree was \$35.00, and the annual dues were \$3.00.

Brother Pruner attended every grand lodge in Indian Territory, going to Atoka, Eufaula, Fort Gibson, and McAlester, which was no small task in those days. A detailed record of the doings of the lodge would tire you, but after old Oklahoma was opened to settlement, the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Territory was organized, and Brother Pruner representing the oldest lodge was tendered the office of Grand Master and became Chairman of the Board of Custodians.

Anadarko Lodge No. 21 of the I. T. Grand Lodge held its last communication Sept. 23, 1892, with Brother Woodard as W. M. and Anadarko Lodge No. 1 of Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Territory held its first communication November 12, and for nine years was the only lodge in the southwest country. The first minute book contains the records from the organization until March 3, 1903, and the first charter and bylaws is written in long hand, and contains many old settlers whom the writer knew as a boy.

HUME, C. ROSS.

MASONIC LODGE, ANADARKO.

8531.

-5-

Up until the opening of this country the lodge had from 30 to 40 members, and they were Masons who were willing to go to some trouble to attend lodge, and there was nearly always something worth while doing.

The records and history of the lodge since the opening is known to most of you, and the writer as secretary kept the minutes of the last meeting of Anadarko Lodge No. 1, held February 2, 1909. About that time the Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma was formed from the two territorial grand lodges, and at the meeting February 16, 1909, we were again lodge No. 21.

Thus the lodge worked for five months under dispensation, then for seven years was No. 21, under the Grand Lodge of Indian Territory; then we became No. 1, of Oklahoma Territory for seventeen years; and now for twelve years we have been No. 21, under the Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma. This is a glorious record of more than thirty-five years of Masonic achievement, and every member of the lodge should know and be proud of its history.

Possibly the recital of this has been somewhat prosaic, but it has seemed to the writer that if some one did not

HUME, C. ROSS.

MASONIC LODGE, ANADARKO.

8531.

-6-

chronicle this history while the actors are alive it would be lost forever. This is the motive which has caused the preparation of this sketch, which we have tried to give the brethren of the early struggles, trials and triumphs of our beloved lodge.

T. F. Woodard

H. P. Pruner

Brethren, this lodge at its last meeting honored these two beloved members by electing them as Honorary Members for life, and I feel that the lodge joins with the committee who were delegated to notify them, in praying and hoping that the Grand Architect may spare them for many years of counsel and service, and may it be their reward to see the craft here erect a noble and worthy structure upon the foundation which they so well and deeply made, and the Masonic edifice be a fitting memorial to our united efforts in this great and glorious cause.

C. Ross Hume.

HUME, C. ROSS.

MASONIC LODGE, ANADARKO.

8531.

-7-

PRESENTATION OF GAVEL.

Worshipful Master and brethren.

In presenting Anadarko Lodge No. 21 with this gavel so skillfully made by Brother W. H. Morgan, I wish to tell you of its peculiar historic value.

The head of oak is part of the first stake driven by me in the resurvey of the Kiowa Reservation, two miles west of Verden in August, 1900, when the country was being opened to settlement and civilization.

The handle of pine is part of the hand rail of the old outside stairs of the Masonic Hall that stood at the Agency, and has guided many brethren from the cold and dark to the warmth and cheer of that first lodge room.