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HENRY, JOHN W. INTERVIEW.

Jennie Seifridge, Field Worker
Indian-Pioneer History
July 15, 1937

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An interview with John W. Henry,
233 Eleventh NW Street, Ardmore,
Oklahoma.

John W. Henry was born in Lawrence County,
Missouri, March 21, 1875. In November of the same
year his parents left Missouri, went across Red
River and settled in Horse Shoe Bend.

In 1881, he started to school in Cooke County,
Texas. This school was held under a large brush
arbor out in the woods, and the seats were made from
split logs. Bell Adkins was the teacher, and about
twelve or fourteen students attended the school.

From 1875-80, Mr. Henry's father had to keep
his horses chained with a padlock in order to keep
them from being stolen. During this period there
was a good deal of trouble with the Comanches.

In 1875, his father and the Elliotts made
33,000 rails for Judge Love. Love fenced his whole
farm, which at that time consisted of several
thousand acres of land, with a ten rail-stake and
rider-rail fence. Bill Fletcher, son-in-law of
Judge Overton Love, put in the first ferry on Red
River. This ferry was about one hundred and fifty
yards below Tuck's Ferry.

At one time there was a ferry at the Overton Love Farm. This was known as the Beef-Pin Crossing. Another ferry was the Bill Elliott Ferry. It was located on the road to Dexter and was established at an early date.

According to Mrs. John W. Henry, who lived for sometime in Montague County, Holland Coffee's Trading Post, which was established about 1830, was located across the river from Spanish Fort. She can remember an old man by the name of Friend who used to talk about it.*

John Henry rode after cattle for Judge Overton Love, Bill Washington, and W. H. Thompson. In 1883 Bill Washington went to the King ranch in east Texas and brought 4,200 head of cattle. Mr. Henry can remember this drive. Fourteen men drove these cattle through to the Washington Ranch southwest of Marietta. From there part of the cattle were driven to the Mud Creek Ranch near old Cornish.

*Simon Parker of Marietta, is also of the opinion that the trading post was located in the western part of the county near the mouth of Mud Creek.

Jerry Washington's brand was "rafter-o-bar" △ ;
Judge Love's was a figure 2.; Henry Love's was
"W O L F".; Bill Washington's was the "Pig-pen Bar" ≠ ;
and Thompson and Rose's "B. T."

In the winter of 1884 and 1885, Red River froze
over, and wheat, oats, and corn were hauled across
the ice in four-horse wagons to Dexter, Texas, and
sold.

Mrs. John Henry, is a daughter of the late
John Tuck, a pioneer resident of Love County. He
at one time operated seven ferry boats up and down
Red River.