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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.