

HARDIN, MINDA.

FOURTH INTERVIEW

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Grace Kelley,
Field Worker,
June 21, 1937.

Interview with Mrs. Minda Hardin
Henryetta, Oklahoma.

"A COWBOY'S STORY"

Mr. Lillie is a Confederate Veteran, ninety-two years old, a truthful old man. I saw him at Jackson, Mississippi, at the United Confederate Veterans' Reunion this month. He either lives in Dallas or Fort Worth, Texas.

In 1879 he was herding cattle from Texas to Kansas City. They passed east of where Henryetta is now, on east of Okmulgee. It was just when the rock council house in Okmulgee was being finished. He guarded the cattle one night and they didn't travel very far in one day. The next night another cowboy was guarding the herd, they were right east of Okmulgee and this other boy saw a great big animal coming and didn't shoot for fear of stampeding the cattle. He kept watching it and when the cattle were pricking up their ears he shot it because he knew it would stampede them if it got among them and they might not run from the shot. Well, the

cattle didn't run, and when this cowboy went off guard before daybreak he told the relief, or the one taking his place, that he had killed the biggest timber wolf he had ever seen. They wanted to know where, so its skin could be taken and sold. When daylight came they found the wolf to be a famous Indian in a bear skin. It worried them because they didn't want to kill Indians. They found out that some ranchers had hired the Indian to scare the cattle to scatter them so these ranchers could gather the cattle and put their own brands on them.