

HOWENSTINE, CY

INTERVIEW

4210

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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Field Worker's name Maude M. Fink,This report made on (date) May 25, 193 71. Name Mr. Cy Howenstine,2. Post Office Address Arapaho, Oklahoma.3. Residence address (or location) Arapaho, Oklahoma.4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month October Day 4 Year 18705. Place of birth Mount Reed, Illinois.6. Name of Father Andrew Howenstine Place of birth PennsylvaniaOther information about father Ran a sawmill and was a farmer7. Name of Mother Margaret Howenstine Place of birth OhioOther information about mother Farmer's wife.

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 3.

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Maude M. Fink,
Field Worker,
May 25, 1937

An Interview with Mr. Cy Howenstine,
Arapaho, Oklahoma.

In September, 1885, the Cheyenne Indians moved down from Montana into Indian Territory but they did not like it down here, so they decided they would go back to Montana. The Indians had started back; the cowboys and soldiers had been notified. There were soldiers stationed at Fort Supply so they could head the Indians off as they passed.

The Indians were at Darlington and they did not like it here because of the way they were being treated.

They got the Indians to come back and the Government started allotting them land. They began allotting land in 1890. The Government gave each Indian a hundred and sixty acres of land. The rest of the land was opened for the white people in 1892.

In 1893 the cowboys and Indians got into a dispute over a horse northwest of Foss about twelve miles. The Indians killed Walter Breeding and shot Cecil Carter through the arm. The cowboys did not kill any Indians, but wounded the Chief of the tribe, Chief Hill.

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The cowboys from Washita, Custer and Roger Mills Counties banded together. The Indians had camped up and down the river together.

They were expecting trouble any time between the Indians and cowboys. The officers from Fort Reno sent out a group of soldiers and arrested three or four of the Indians. The soldiers stayed all summer, about eight months.

The nearest railroad was at El Reno. There were no bridges until after 1900 and people had to ford the creeks and rivers. The mail came from El Reno to Arapaho every two weeks for a while, then the Government contracted for it and it came every day.

The opening was in April. The people lived in tents and dugouts until fall, then they began to build frame houses.

The outlaws used this part of the country for hideouts. Red Buck was killed on Oak Creek in the southwest part of Custer County, at a ranch. The owner of the ranch was Mr. Gulf Pickle. Officers

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also shot his companion. Red Buck was the first person to be buried in the Arapaho Cemetery.

Schools were held in dugouts. The first election was in the fall of 1894. There were only three voting boxes in the county, now there are forty-eight. People went as far as thirty miles to vote.

People went on horseback and in wagons. The roads were mostly trails; when a trail got real deep, where the wagon wheels ran, they would make another trail beside it. The section lines had already been surveyed for the Indians before the opening.

There was a great deal of game and beef. People raised kaffir corn and corn, then later people began to raise wheat. They would haul their wheat to El Reno and have it ground into flour.

There were no stores the first year, but the second year there were a few. There was a store at Independence and one at Deer Creek.

The houses were built out of cedar logs and covered with brush and sod. People burned gypsum rock and made a plaster and plastered the houses on the inside. Snakes and centipedes would come through the tops and get into the houses.

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