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LETTER.

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ANSWER TO A LETTER WRITTEN TO THE HONORABLE FINLEY
ROSS, EX-MAYOR OF WICHITA, KANSAS, WHO CAME TO THE
INDIAN TERRITORY ABOUT 1869. MR. ROSS IS NOW DECEASED.
THE ENCLOSED CORRESPONDENCE WAS WRITTEN BY HIS SON,
F. F. ROSS, WICHITA, KANSAS.

BY

CHESTER LAMB FIELD WORKER
INDIAN-PIONEER HISTORY S-149

June 19, 1937

Mr. Chester Lamb,
Indian-Pioneer History,
City Hall,
Anadarko, Oklahoma.

Dear Mr. Lamb:

I have your inquiry of June 10th, addressed to my father and which has been turned over to me. My father died in January, three years ago; however in the later years of his life he wrote a retrospect of his life from the time he went down to Texas and the Indian Territory, which I believe was about 1869. I have taken some points from this which you might condense and gain some information. My father had been employed at Fort Richardson, Texas, in building barracks. Fort Richardson was about one hundred miles from Fort Sill, Indian Territory. At that time the boundry line between Texas and the Indian Territory was the Red River. He was placed in charge of construction of commissary buildings for the Indians at Fort Sill. Lieutenant Col. Lee, who

was cousin to General O. O. Howard, was in command of the barracks of Fort Sill and at this time the commissary for the Indians was handled directly through the commission officer of the barracks. Later the Government decided to place all Indian tribes in the United States under custody of different denominations and Christian churches. That part of the Indian Territory was placed under supervision of the Friends Church or Quakers. The first Indian agent was a man by the name of Tatum, located at Fort Sill. It was later decided to establish an agency about thirty-five miles south of Fort Sill, to be known as the Wichita Indian Agency. The first agent at Anadarko was Jonathan Richards.

The battle of Wichita was fought on the east bank of the Washita River near the old Fort. This battle lasted thirty minutes and the total casualties were four United States soldiers and six civilians. This troop was under the command of Jen Davidson of the Twenty United States Cavalry. The tribes engaged were the Comanches and the Kiowas and a few Caddoes. The Caddoes were not so popular among the major tribes and the superstition was that the Caddoes came from knot holes in trees.

The majority of people that I have any record of that were in the old Indian Agency have eluded me. The last ones were Pat O Shea, who later moved to Fort Smith, Arkansas, and W. D. Considine at Springfield, Ohio. I am enclosing two photographs, one of my father at the time he was in the territory, and the other of Chief Waka-Sets and Col. Lee. Chief Waka-Sets was scout and interpreter for Col. Lee.

I would appreciate your returning these photographs.

Yours sincerely,

F. F. Ross.