

ROUNDS, JOE.

INTERVIEW

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BIOGRAPHY FOR
FOREIGN PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Lillian Gasaway

This report made on (date) April 26, 1938

1. Name Joe Rounds

2. Post office Address Anadarko, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 201 West Texas

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 8 Year 1889

5. Place of birth Indian Territory.

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about mother _____

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 4

Lillian Cassaway
Investigator
April 26, 1938

Interview with Joe Rounds,
Anadarko, Oklahoma
201 West Texas Street.

My father came to the Territory in 1871. He and my mother were married under the old Choctaw law- without any license- at Coffees Prairie on Red River. At that time my father was working for a man of the name of Jim Yarber who lived west of Durant.

White people had to get land permits from the Tribal Council to be allowed to live in the Territory. These permits cost \$5.00 a year. This permit allowed a man with his family and stock and all to stay here for a year. Larman Carnes was the Choctaw Headman at that time. White people were very few and far between, so we had only Indians to deal with.

Antlers was the Court Ground under the Choctaw law and Toka was one of the little towns. The Choctaw laws were strict. When anyone committed a bad crime the Indians would take him and stand him at the foot of a tree then six Indians with rifles- only one loaded- would shoot him. They also had the whipping post. The victim was tied with his hands around a tree, then the one who was to whip him stepped off a few steps and administered the lashes. When he was through the victim was turned loose without any clothes on.

The Indians had their protracted meetings, too. They were always held under a big arbor. The preacher was a Missionary Baptist of the name of Durant and he had his interpreter. Not very many white people came but there were hundreds of Indians.

When I was about eight years old I went with my father on a cattle drive. On the return trip Father and I were in one wagon with four other cow hands. Father at this time was working for the Bar-L Ranch. I think it was between Altus and Comanche that we saw some Indians coming. We got out of the wagon and crawled into the high prairie grass- it was higher than my head- to hide from them. We stayed there all night. The Indians burned our chuck wagon, but we got away from them without any personal harm. We put what we had left into one wagon and went home. When the Indians were around we dared not have a light or fire in either house or camp, for if they saw a light or fire they would come and get us.

The Bar-L Ranch was located between Pylesworth and Madill. We used to drive cattle from Durant out into this country. We delivered some of these cattle to an old ranch house not very far from Grandfield. There were no trails and we had to make our own. One time we had a large herd and were bringing them west. We lost some near Davis when we crossed the Washita River. They drowned. Then when

we got to Comanche we had to give a cow to some Indians and another to some more Indians near Walters before they would let us pass. It was on the return trip that I saw some Comanche Indians burning up houses and destroying property.

In 1900 we drove more cattle across the range. There were twenty-one head drowned this time. We had five hundred head in the herd. In the spring of 1908 we crossed the Washita at the Nahoun Crossing and lost four or five head of cattle and one horse. This was the last trip we made across there. Our shipping points then were Durant, Laurika and Davis. We made two drives from Durant west. Our railroads were the Santa Fe, M. K. & T. and the C. R. I. & P.

When I was about twenty years old I went to work for myself. I rounded up wild hogs and branded them. The brand was the right ear cut off and the left ear split. We had a large herd of these wild hogs.

Curley Barker and Bear Face Jim were horse thieves. They stole hogs and horses along with another gang west of Ardmore. I once followed this bunch from Atoka to Mud Creek to get back the horses that they had stolen. The thieves stole so many of our horses that we formed the Anti Horse Thief Association.

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we began to brand our horses with a "C" on the jaws. We kept this up until 1907. By doing this we caught up with all of the horse thieves.

In the spring of 1907 a man of the name of Bob Sumpter began to brand all the United States Indian horses. That did away with the "C" brand. At this time I was living in Durant. Sumpter asked me if I would take that territory and brand the horses. I did this and he went somewhere else.

Robbers' Roost was west of Durant. There was one old log building that was a kind of camping place. The robbers had held up the stage there sometimes.

One day my father bought a can of oysters and some crackers at a store and paid \$5.00 for them and before he had gotten away the gang came and robbed the store. They went on down to Carriage Point and changed horses and went on their way. Father went back home on the stage.