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SPENCER, JAMES T. INTERVIEW.

Interview with James. T. Spencer, (White)

By

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Mr. Spencer answers all questions and volunteers the following answers.

I am 69 years old. Born in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Came along with my parents to Indian Territory in 1871.

FATHER ---- James. T. Spencer, born in Ohio, moved to Indiana and on to Indian Territory in 1871.

MOTHER ---- Carrie Morgan Spencer, born in Ohio, moved to Indiana and on to Indian Territory in 1871.

REMOVAL TO INDIAN TERRITORY.

I, when only a babe, left along with my parents and from Terre Haute, Indiana, with four wagons, complete camp outfit. We traveled along what is now highway #40 to East St. Louis, Illinois, crossed the Mississippi River on bridge at East St. Louis, then a toll bridge through St. Louis, Missouri, and traveled in a southwest direction along, about what is now U. S. Highway No. 266, to Springfield, Missouri, and thence on southwest to the

Quapaw Country in the Indian Territory, south-east of Baxter Springs, Kansas, or what is now, Quapaw, Oklahoma. We remained there a year, and thence, to the Johnny Cake Trading Post near what is now Dewey and Bartlesville, Oklahoma. We settled down to farming and stock raising. Johnny Cake himself was a Delaware Indian.

The reason of our removal, was to forge forward into a new country for my parents felt the opportunities were greater than they were back East.

LIFE AND CUSTOMS

As we arrived here only six years after the close of the Civil War, we found the people in what I would term a pitiable plight. Most of the homes had been destroyed by opposing factions at War, and by Indian raids made by the wild Indians. The people as a whole were going through a period of rehabilitation, building log houses or cabins of one or two rooms. In most every case there was a large stone fireplace built in each room. Some of the wealthier whites and mixed bloods lived in larger

houses of frame construction. The lumber having been hauled by ox teams from Kansas, if horses were not available. The people lived a simple life. They just lived at home, producing nearly all that they ate or wore. They killed their own meat, beef, pork, venison. Dried beef was a common thing in those days. (There were no ice boxes or refrigerators to keep it from spoiling). They ground their own corn with a mortar and pestle and before cotton gins came in, the cotton seed was picked out by hand. The cotton was raised only for home use and in some instances the cotton would have to be brought in from parts farther south than our immediate community. Some sheep were raised and wool could be had. The wool was sheared from the sheep and the cotton and the wool were carded, spun, and woven into cloth. The spinning wheel, reel, and loom was used to make the cloth. The cloth was dyed by the use of various barks being boiled down to a solution and the thread dipped in the solution. Sumac and copperas solution would make a tan, sycamore a red, indigo,

all shades of blue, etc.,

The people found time for recreation and social affairs along with their work. They were hospitable by nature and enjoyed visiting friends, neighbors, picnics, barbecues, dances, horse races, foot races, fox hunts, coyotes chases, camp meetings, and then some times the neighbors would all gather and have a cabin raising. They would build a cabin in a day for some of their friends who were sick or afflicted and not able to do it for themselves.

The country as a whole was in its original condition, except for little clearings here and there. The prairies were waist high with sage and blue stem grass. Every place was wild game according to what their native haunt might be. Prairie chickens, quail, squirrels, turkeys, deer, rabbits, (Cotton tail and Jack) o'possum, racoon, bear, and wild pigeons by the thousands.

There was some wild hogs in the cane brakes along the streams as well as a few wild cattle.

Hogs and cattle had been domesticated but went wild

on account of being left behind when the War began. All the rivers and creeks were full of all kinds and varieties of soft water specie. Wild honey was plentiful, for wild bees infested the trees with bee gums and to cut a single tree and rob it would mean enough honey to last the entire winter. Nuts in the Fall of the year were gathered. Hickory nuts, walnuts, pecans, some hazel nuts, and chinquapins. Planting of fruit trees was slow to come into its own, due to the abundance of wild plum, cherries, and wild berries of all kinds, blackberries, dewberries, huckleberries, strawberries, grapes and mulberries. As time crept on, hand grinders and grist mills operated by horse power and water wheels came in to their own day as well as saw mills and flour mills which operated in the same manner. From the flailing and horse treading of the wheat and oats from the straw, came the horse power threshers. Time, patience, and striving all the time for the better, we forged on.

Travel and trade increased daily, with the freight wagons and stage coaches, and the steamboats that came up the Arkansas River from Memphis, New Orleans, Little Rock, and Fort Smith, landing at Skulleville, Webber Falls, and Fort Gibson, Indian Territory. Then came the railroads.

Schools (private, subscription, and otherwise) together with the missions increased. The English language was taught in all the schools to White and Indians alike. Preachers and teachers were not only of the White Race, but numbers of them were Indians whose education had been received in the missions, Kansas, or back East in the colleges. All of the people were justly proud of the great strides of progress they were making, not only educating and civilizing themselves, but they were eager that the rest of the world should know about it, and they would write back to their friends and loved ones in the states and tell them of the wonderful opportunities in this new land or ours.

I remember once a month I use to beg my father

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to let me ride horseback thirty miles to Caney, Kansas, from the Johnny Cake Trading Post where we lived to get the mail and how I would return sometimes with what would make a croker sack full. Finally, Post Offices were established at all Trading Posts, villages and hamlets. Mail was hauled into the Territory from the States by stage-coach and horse-back. Railroads then came through, and Post Offices were located at every station. Today, much of our mail comes by plane, and as a result, we have it delivered to our door in a very short time.

INDIAN TRIBES IN THE TERRITORY.

The Five Civilized Tribes (Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Seminole, dominated the eastern half of the Territory. The wild Indians, (Osages, Cheyennes, Comanches, Kiowas, Arapahoes, and others) dominated the western part of the Territory. There was much raiding by these wild Indians. They would leave their reservations and spread terror and fear to the frontier settlements

In Kansas and Texas. Finally, along in 1874 and '75, the United States Soldiers dealt with them so forcibly for about a year that they were glad to quit these tactics. Treaties were made with the Five Civilized Tribes in 1876 and Indians were moved from Kansas reservations to the Indian Territory. (Delawares, Shawnees, Quapaws, Senecas, and others) and they settled in the Cherokee Nation and became citizens of the Territory.

on Lightning Creek
At Johnny Cake Post, where I lived, which is now Bartlesville and Dewey, Oklahoma, settled the Osages, Delawares, and some Shawnees. The Quapaws, Senecas, and other little tribes settled up around the present towns of Miami, Quapaw, and Cardin, Oklahoma. The town of Bartlesville was named after Old Jake Bartley. The Delawares and Shawnees soon became reconciled but the Osages were of a roving, roaming type of Indians, had no cabins, would not work, stole and pilfered as long as I can remember. They lived in Teepees, wore their paint and feather head gear. They would fish and hunt a while at a

place and then move on four or five miles and start over hunting and fishing again, and so on. They had the best horses in the country, ones that they had stolen in Kansas. They would steal a fine stallion. Their horses were kept up to the peak of standard. When they moved along from place to place, fifty or more in a group, they would travel along like ducks, one behind the other. They would hitch a horse to some sticks tied together, sled fashion, and pull their belongings along in this manner. The Government did everything they could for the Osages. One time they gave them some fine big mules and new wagons. They did not know how to handle them, nor did they care to go farming. The mules would ^{run} off, tear up the wagon, lose the harness and leave them scattered all over the prairie land, and finally the mules went wild, and were as hard to catch as a deer. Another time I remember the Government gave them some nice milk cows

it was not long until a cow could not be found belonging to them, for they had killed and eaten them as long as they lasted. In speaking of the wild Indians I often use the old term, "You can't change the spots on a leopard".

THE OVERLAND CATTLE TRADE.

Prior to my parents coming to the Territory, the cattle trade between Texas and the states as far as driving and ranging them through to market was concerned was about over. However, it was continued some over the old Chisholm Trail. The Cow punchers called it "Chissum Trail". I have heard it said in 1871 the year my parents came to the Territory, that about five hundred thousand head were driven through over the trail to Wichita, Kansas. After becoming a young man I became very much interested in the cattle business and during my life time I have handled thousands and thousands of head of cattle. The Overland trail cattle trade passed out on account of being unprofitable, along with other reasons, and cattle men from Texas, and Kansas and those here in the Territory began to occupy the Western part of

the Territory with large ranches as well as in the Cherokee Strip outlet and in the bounds also of the Five Civilized Tribes where acreage was obtainable.

CATTLE RANCHES IN THE TERRITORY.

Texas cattle were cheap although back east cattle were high. Thus, the reason for the ranches. The climate was ideal, and no better grass could be found.

These ranches were stocked with half-wild Texas cattle, and of Mexican origin. Most of them were gaunt, thin, and had long horns. All were different colors, white black, spotted, brindle, brown, red, etc.

Each ranch had its range and in many instances overlapped other ranges. There were no fences, all open range, and the cattle would mix and mingle naturally and in order to know your cattle they would have to be branded and each ranch had its own particular brand of identification. Two or three times a year the ranches would have what they called a round-up.

Cattle were identified by their brands and driven to their home range. The calves were branded in accordance with the brand of the mother cow, and the calf would belong to the ranch that owned the cow. They called the calves - doggies or Mavericks.

Each ranch had its own buildings, some were of logs, some logs of native lumber, and some had walls of stone or brick. Brick was made by hand. Some were just earthen floors, some puncheon floors, etc. These buildings consisted of bunk house, where the cow hands slept. The cook shack, where they ate. Usually a few stables or sheds, together with a corral, branding corral, and stock chutes. The owner, Superintendent, and Foreman and their families as a rule had better houses than those of the cow hands.

Each ranch had a Foreman, if the owner did not live there and supervise it. Then came the cow hands, cook, horse wrangler, and the salt boys according to the number of cattle being handled.

The cow punchers were all jolly good fellows, happy, law abiding, and loved to be in the wide open

spaces and if need be lie down at night along beside their cow pony with the blue sky decked with the stars and the moon for their canopy. They were brave men and hated a coward and a thief. They have all about disappeared now, like the herds, into oblivion, Its only a dream of the golden past. How I wish I could live those days again, in the saddle. I look back over the years and recall how after the railroads came through how we loaded and unloaded the cattle to and from the range. The railroads handled a lot of cattle to the markets, thus saving the long drive of the cattle on foot, and those too, were happy days when maybe two or three trains of cattle would pull into Muskogee, Choteau, or Summitt, Indian Territory, and we cow punchers were all there waiting to unload them and get them to the range. Those days it seems, are gone forever.

UNASSIGNED LANDS.

All lands had been assigned to the wild Indians out of Kansas, Nebraska, and as far west as Colorado, and the Five Civilized Tribes except that

portion of the Territory of the present counties of Canadian, Payne, Oklahoma, Logan, Kingfisher, and Cleveland. You might have called this unassigned Government land and people learned of this and "Squatters" began to pour in and it was necessary for the United States Troops to remove them time after time. These lands were commonly referred to as the "Oklahoma Country". There was a Captain Payne that organized colonies and squatted on these lands and he maintained it was Government land and that he had a right to settle on it under the Homestead Laws of the United States. The cattlemen and the Five Civilized Tribes opposed a bill introduced in Congress to open these lands to white settlers but the bill passed and it was to be settled in accordance with the United States Homestead Laws. President Benjamin Harrison proclaimed April 22, 1889 as the exact date of the opening. People came by wagons, a-foot, horseback, and some by train, as the Sante Fe Railroad then ran through a portion of this land. People gathered, some moved before the date of the opening of the land and lived in camps. Day after day, people continued to come, excitement grew more tense daily, and then finally hours, and when the United States Soldiers signaled,

shouts of thousands of voices went up and the race started at noon on April 22, 1889. It was not long until these settlers had a few acres plowed and planted to corn and gardens. Tent cities grew up and finally the tents were replaced with log cabins and clap board houses.

The race-----The Government had proclaimed that the first one to drive a stake on each 160 acres would become it's owner and that would become his homestead and no one else could take it away from him. This race possessed all that might be seen in a moving picture show of today. Humor, melodrama, and tragedy. A race horse would lose to a cow pony. Wagons, carts, all kinds of conveyances with people racing for home. Covered wagons with two and four horse teams, could be seen, loaded down with all their earthly possessions, including the children bouncing up and down in the wagons and sometimes completely bouncing out as the horses raced on and on across the prairie. After that race you could find cook stoves, bed steads,

bedding, clothing, pieces of wagons, buggies, carts, and everything imaginable, including dead horses scattered for miles over the prairies where the cattle had grazed so contentedly in the years before. In many places prairie fires got started and this was a tragedy for those that did get through were burned out completely.

Congress did not provide any laws for these settlers and they themselves soon elected their Mayors, Council and Police but it did not amount to much for there were no statutes to cover, but it did reduce lawlessness. Each little village started its schools, churches, Something had to be done regarding law and Congress finally placed them under the same laws as that of the State of Nebraska. The Organic Act in 1890 divided the old Territory into parts and all that portion west of about the Central part of present Oklahoma was called Oklahoma Territory, and that in the east Indian Territory.

George W. Steel was the first Governor of Oklahoma Territory. Guthrie was the largest town in Oklahoma Territory and this was the Capitol. Governor Steel resigned in about a year and A. J. Seay was appointed in his place. At this same time Indian Territory was to have a Federal Judge.

CHEROKEE STRIP OPENING.

Negotiations were made for the Opening of the Cherokee outlet to white settlers. This tract included the present counties of Osage, Washington, Nowata, Rogers, and possibly some other county or two and again a wild race was made, in September, 1893, similar to the one of 1889 with all its thrills and comedy. There was many conflicting claims and law suits that grew out of this race, but finally it all got straightened out. Personally, I never participated in any of these runs.

THE FIVE TRIBES GOVERNMENT.

The tribes had their own Government. Each tribe had its own separate and distinct government. Their officials consisted of a Chief, who acted as

a governor, Auditor, Treasurer, and Superintendent of the Tribal school, and the legislature -- the upper and lower house. Those officers were elected by the citizens of the Tribe. The Cherokee Capitol was at Tahlequah, Creek Capitol at Okmulgee, Seminole at Wewoka, Chickasaw- at Tishomingo, while the Choctaw's Capitol was located at Tuskahoma. All lands of each tribe was the property of the tribe. During the Dawes Commission the Indians of each tribe were enrolled as to citizenship including the Negro. These Negro Slaves were called Freedman and in 1897 or 1898 the lands of each tribe was cut up into allotments and each Indian or Freedman got a certain amount of land designated as his or her land, ranging from fifty acres in some localities to one hundred and sixty acres. In the Creek Nation I think all of them received one hundred and sixty acres a piece.

Having lived most of my life in the Creek Nation, I was naturally more familiar with the Creek Laws. There was to what we call police or United States Marshal, a group called "Light Horseman", usually in groups of five including a captain cover-

ing a certain district, who could make arrests and take them before a Judge. Some time a jury would be called, but mostly the Judge was the Judge and the Jury. There were minor offenses and fines were assessed and could be paid, but major offenses, such as stealing (Petit or grand larceny) and offenses of similar nature, if guilty, or deemed guilty, would be sentenced to fifty lashes at the Whipping Post. Second offense one hundred lashes, and the third offense called for the convicted to be shot. All murderers were shot if found guilty. The Light Horseman's duties included that of doing the whipping. The Prosecuting Attorney was a Creek Indian named Saul Anderson. The Judge was named Reed. The place in which they were tried was at Lee - now - no more. The Court House was a one room log cabin. The Whipping Post was a black gum tree which stood in the yard with the Court House. Lee was about three miles south of the present town of Boynton, Oklahoma. At Lee was also a trading post and a hotel. Dr. Barnett also operated a stage stand at Lee and cared for the

stage drivers and their horses. The Mail was transferred at this point to other stage lines going on to Okmulgee, or to Wealaka, and Muskogee, Indian Territory. I cannot recall any of the stage drivers names at this time.

INDIAN MEDICINES

The Indians had their Doctors and Medicine Men, but many of them had no Doctors and relied principally on themselves for their own medical attention and naturally when an epidemic like small pox or cholera struck they would die by the hundreds.

These Medicine Men used all kinds of roots and herbs and knew more concoctions than Medical Science knows today. They had a remedy for everything and a cure for nothing. The Indians had great faith in their Medicine Men. Some of these medicines were made from button snake root, butterfly roots, polk roots, sassafras bark, and other barks stewed down. Cabbage leaves after cabbage was raised was used for all swollen parts and cases of stiff joints or rheumatic pains.

BRIDGES.

A toll bridge was across the North Elk Creek on the Texas Road and was operated by Jim McIntosh, and on the South Elk Creek there was one owned and operated by a Mrs. Drew.

The M. O. & G. Railroad bridge across the Verdigris River after the railroad was built was a toll bridge and was operated by the M. O. & G. Railroad.

The Frisco Railroad Bridge East of Muskogee, Oklahoma across the Arkansas River was a toll bridge and was operated by the Frisco Railroad in 1904 until 1918.

FORDS AND FERRIES.

I can't recall any fords by individual names. We just forded the creeks and rivers with our cattle most any place. If it became necessary to swim the cattle and our horses it made little difference to us. I do remember something about a Rock Ford across North Canadian River, on the Texas Road. We used to ford the South Canadian now at Whitefield, Oklahoma.

The Nevins Ferry was across the Arkansas River. The East landing was at the mouth of the Grand River

and the West landing was at the present Muskogee Pump Station north of Hyde Park and was run by Mose and Julia Nevins. This ferry was on the main artery of travel from all points north, south, and west to Fort Gibson, Indian Territory and Tahlequah, the Cherokee Capitol.

The Perryman ferry was due north of the present town of Taft, Oklahoma, across the Arkansas river and was owned and operated by Hecter Perryman.

The Brown Ferry was across the Arkansas River north and east of Fern Mountain at the Spaulding Bridge on the highway from Muskogee, to Porter, Oklahoma and was owned and operated by Simon Brown.

The Texas Ferry was across the Arkansas River north of Muskogee Indian Territory at the present M. K. & T. Bridge and was owned and operated by a full blood Cherokee Indian by the name of Red Bird Harris.

The Choski or Gentry Ferry was across the Arkansas river one mile east of the present town of Haskell Oklahoma. It was owned by Scott Gentry and was operated by Steve Lowery.

The Googy Socky Ferry was across the Arkansas river near the mouth of Cedar Creek which is south of the present town of Coweta, Oklahoma, and was owned and operated by a Creek Indian named Googy Socky.

Leaches Ferry was across the Arkansas River near the present town of Stone Bluff, Oklahoma, and was owned and operated by a Mr. Leacher, a Creek Indian.

The Lynch Ferry was across the Arkansas river at the present highway bridge just north of the town of Webber Falls, Oklahoma. This ferry was controlled, owned and operated by Joe Lynch and Doc Campbell, white men. Joe Lynch owned the land on the north side of the river and Doc Campbell owned the land on the South side of the river. This ferry was an original pole ferry, than a cable ferry and later a steam ferry. Doc Campbell was all that his name implies for he was an original saddle bag Doctor.

The Foreman Ferry across the Illinois river was located a short way up stream from the rivers mouth, and on the main stage route to Fort Smith, Arkansas. It was owned and operated by Bullet Foreman,

The Vann Ferry was across the North Canadian river about seven miles east of Webbers Falls, Indian Territory and about the same distance up stream from its mouth and was owned and operated by Bob Vann, a Cherokee Indian.

The Rip O'Lowe Ferry was across the South Canadian four miles south of the present town of Texana, Oklahoma and was owned by Rip O'Lowe, a white man.

The Crossland Ferry was across the Verdigris river at about the present location of the M. K. & T. bridge north of Muskogee, Oklahoma, and was owned and operated by Bill Crossland, a white man.

The Mayes Ferry was about twelve miles east of the present town of Pryor, Oklahoma, across Grand river. Near the Mayes Ferry was located the old salt works. A few years ago remnants of the old salt works could be seen.

The McCracken Ferry was about six miles east of the present town of Choteau, Oklahoma., across Grand River and was run by a Cherokee Indian named Cook McCracken.

TRADING POSTS.

Lee Post was north of the present town of Boynton, Oklahoma, about three miles on Cane Creek. It consisted of a store, an Inn, Court House, Post Office, Stage Stand, and whipping Post. The Court House was a place the Creek Indians held Court and was a one room log house. The hotel was run by Judge Lee, a negro who was also Judge at the Court. The Stage Stand was operated by a Dr. Barnett. The Whipping Post was a black gum tree near the log cabin Court House. The Whipping Post was a black gum tree near the log cabin Court House. This post no longer exists.

Sawokla Post was about 1 mile south and one mile west of the present town of Haskell, Oklahoma and consisted of one building, a frame structure. They sold general merchandise and had a post office in the same building. The Midland Valley Railroad came through this section in 1904 and the town of Haskell sprang up and Sawokla passed out, and the Post Office moved to Haskell. E. B. Harris now in the mercantile business at Haskell, Oklahoma, at one time owned and operated the Sawokla Post and was also the Postmaster.

Sam Brown Post was near Wealaka or the present town of Leonard, Oklahoma. There was only a store and stage stand at this location.

Pete Stideman Post was on Pecan Creek South of the present town of Taft, Oklahoma, on the old Military Road to Okmulgee, Indian Territory. This Post consisted of a store including the Post Office. I remember one time some Post Office Inspectors checked up on old Sam and found him five or ten cents short and Sam told them he would not pay it and for them to take the Post Office and get out. I don't know the results but I do know Sam left. It no longer exists.

The Johnny Cake Post was on Lightning Creek, near the present town of Dewey, Oklahoma. Johnny Cake was a full blood Delaware Indian and ran a store and finally a grist mill. There was no Post Office and we had to go to Caney, Kansas, for our mail. This post no longer exists.

The Jake Bartles Post was just East of the present town of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, which was named after old Jake. It, of course, passed out years ago.

The Choski Post was originally about seven miles east of Haskell, Oklahoma and was run by Chief Choski, a creek Indian. I never saw the old original Post but the new Choski Post was about one and one half miles east of Haskell, Oklahoma, and was owned by G. W. Turner and John Mounds. The old hotel building, now a farm house, is all that remains there.

Clarksville, A Post or inland village, was four or five miles in a southwest direction from the present town of Porter, Oklahoma. This was a thriving little village fifty years ago and I stopped often there at the hotel. They had stores, hotel, blacksmith shops, and all it takes to make a thriving little village. This village was about the present location of the Mose Perryman plantation before the Civil War. With the building of the M. K. & T. Railroad through that

section of the country the town of Porter, Oklahoma, sprang up. This town was named after the Creek Chief Pleas Porter. The Clarksville populace moved to Porter, thus leaving Clarksville a ghost town. It is however, a little Negro Settlement and many Negro families live there and work on the surrounding farms, and they still refer to the village as Clarksville.

RANCHES

I, at one time, knew most every ranch, Superintendent, Foreman, and many of them as to full particulars, from Kansas to Texas. It has been so long ago, that I may have forgotten some of them, but I will do my best. The ranches were known by their brands, and instances when they were not, I will so tell you as I go along.

The J. B. Ranch was five miles east of the town of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and was owned by Jake Bartlett.

The F. S. Ranch was four miles south and six miles west of the present town of Haskell, Oklahoma. Ed Hart was Foreman. In 1905 Ed

Hart married a daughter of Bluford Miller who was also a ranch man. The F. S. Ranch handled from fifteen to twenty thousand head of cattle yearly and about three hundred horses.

The I. X. Ranch, 11 miles west of Haskell, Oklahoma, and west of the Concharty Mountains, was owned by Bluford Miller. He handled eight thousand head yearly and five hundred horses.

The Lazy "S" was on Cloud Creek and was owned by H. B. Spaulding. The Foreman was Jim Garrett, at one time, and Al Todd and myself. Some of the cow hands were: Billy Franklin, (a Shawnee Indian) Green McCloskey, Bud Hall, Sam Todd, Pleas Townsend, Jim Miller, "The Bronco Buster". This ranch handled from 15 to 20 thousand head of cattle yearly. While our brand was the Lazy "S",

One year we had cattle with seventy three different brands due to the branding they had received in Texas. I made a book of these brands and gave each cow puncher one so he could learn and know our cattle. Mr. Spaulding, owner of the ranch, built a ten room, two story house made of lumber which was hauled by oxen from Kansas.

The Big "G" Ranch, west of Checotah, Oklahoma, was owned by Bill Gentry. It was only a small ranch, and handled about one thousand head yearly.

The W. L. Ranch was Northwest of Checotah, Oklahoma, and was owned by Bill Lipscomb. This was a small ranch and handled about one thousand head yearly.

The C. A. Bar Ranch was on Elk Creek near Oktaha, Oklahoma, and was owned by D. G. Middleton. This was a small ranch and handled about one thousand head yearly.

Ed Halsell Ranch was up near Claremore, Indian Territory, on Bird Creek, and handled ten or fifteen thousand head yearly.

The Half Moon Ranch was nine miles southeast of Okmulgee, Indian Territory, and handled two or three thousand head yearly. The Foreman was Frank Selfridge. It was owned by Judge N. B. Moore who was at that time Treasurer of the Creek Nation.

The Circle B Ranch was south of Chimney Mountain near the present town of Summitt, Oklahoma, and was owned by G. H. Middleton and handled two or three thousand head yearly.

The N. B. Ranch was located on Georgia Fork, Southeast of Keefeton, Oklahoma, and was owned by Nip Blackstone. They handled five or six thousand head yearly.

The Heart Cross Ranch was near the present town of Inola, ^{Oklahoma?} Kansas and was owned by Clarence Turner. The Foreman was Blue Starr. They handled from ten to fifteen thousand head yearly.

The Three Bar Ranch on Pecan Creek near what is now the present town of Chase, Oklahoma, was owned by C. W. Turner. The Foreman was Tom Carey. They handled between ten and fifteen thousand yearly.

The O. X. Ranch about eight miles south of the present town of Muskogee, Oklahoma, at Chimney Mountain was owned by Lewis Jobe. This was only a small ranch and handled about eight hundred head yearly.

The Spike "S" Ranch was located on Cedar Creek near the present town of Coweta, Oklahoma, and handled about five thousand head yearly.

Winfield Scott was owner of the ranch north of Wagoner on Flat Rock Creek,, and they handled about five thousand head yearly.

Olem Hayden was owner of the ranch near the present town of Choteau, Oklahoma, and handled about five thousand head yearly.

John Hayden and W. A. Graham were owners of a ranch north of the present town of Pryor, Oklahoma,

and they handled about eight thousand head yearly.

Jim Hall Ranch was about four miles east of the present town of ^{Adair} ~~Adair~~, Oklahoma, and north of the present town of Vinita, Oklahoma, on Flat Rock Creek and they handled about six or eight thousand head yearly.

The W. F. Patton Ranch was on Flat Rock Creek north of Vinita, Indian Territory and about ten miles up the Creek from Jim Hall's Ranch and they handled five or six thousand head yearly. W. F. Patton is the Fatherinlaw of the old Doctor F. B. Fite who now resides at Muskogee, Oklahoma.

The Double Hill Ranch was owned by myself, and it was located near the Concharty Mountains west of the present town of Haskell, Oklahoma. We handled ten and fifteen thousand head of cattle yearly. On my ranch was a log cabin, and mail was left there by the carrier who brought it horse back on his way to Indian Wealaka, Mission Territory.

ROADS AND TRAILS.

The Chisholm Trail was from Kansas to Texas, and I used to intersect this trail at Cleveland,

Indian Territory, and rode it each way from this point.

The Texas Road left Nevins Ferry and I have told you the location of the Nevins Ferry, and it ran southwest for about two miles, thence south across North Elk Creek, continuing across South Elk Creek, North Canadian River, South Canadian River, and on toward the present town of Krebs, Oklahoma.

The Old Military Road left west out of the Nevins Ferry and passed on to the south side of Fern Mountain and thence southwest to the present town of Okmulgee, Oklahoma. I believe they used to call this the Arbuckle Road.

The Stage Line Road from Muskogee, Indian Territory to Okmulgee, Indian Territory, ran west out of the present town of Muskogee on Okmulgee

street, to the Pecan Mission, located seven miles

West of Muskogee on Pecan Creek, and thence,

southwest across Cloud Creek about five miles,

thence west to Lee Post which was about three miles

south of the present town of Boynton, Oklahoma,

and continuing west to Okmulgee.

We had cattle trails every place and I could not tell you in a week about all of them but they are of no importance, I suppose at this time.

PAYMENTS AND ANNUITIES.

I knew the Indians received payments of some kinds all along but I paid little attention to them. They were always looking for payments from the Government from the time I got here until yet.

I know that there was a payment made along in about 1880 but I have forgotten what they called it. All along the Government gave them little payments ranging from fourteen to twenty dollars which they called "Bread Payments". The Strip Payment was made, I believe in 1894, and each one received something like two hundred and sixty five dollars. The

Freedman Payment was in 1897 and I believe each received a hundred and thirty three dollars and seventy five cents. These payments were made at Tahlequah, Vinita, Fort Gibson, Webbers Falls, and Okmulgee, Indian Territory.

SALT WORKS AND SALT LICKS

There used to be an old salt works on the Grand River near Mayes Ferry twelve miles east of the present town of Pryor, Oklahoma, before the railroads were built through the Territory, but I personally knew little of them. After the railroads - the salt was hauled in by train in car loads lots to Summitt, Muskogee, Wagoner, Choteau, Pryor, and Vinita, Indian Territory. The salt was unloaded and hauled to the various ranches by wagon and upon its arrival at the ranch the barrels of salt were sawed half in two and then hauled to different points on the ranch and planted and these would serve as cattle licks.

OUTLAWS.

I well knew a number of outlaws and many times have some of them camped on the ranches where I was working. The Dalton Boys at one time were working on a ranch and were respectable as any other of the hands and naturally I knew them well. Cherokee Bill I knew quite well, also, Israel Car, Buck Gang,

Freeman Kelley, and Verdigris Kid.

UNITED STATES MARSHALS AND LIGHT HORSEMEN.

I knew quite a few of the United States Marshal's, Bev Reeves, Heck Thomas, John West, Will Adair, Bud Ledbetter, John Tilgman, and at one time some of the Dalton Brothers were Marshals before they became outlaws.

The Light Horsemen was a Creek Police Organization. In the Creek Nation were three Light Horse Districts.. These Light Horsemen traveled sometimes in squads of five with one being the Captain and sometimes they would travel separately. I remember some of these Police as being Connie Murphy, Jim Kernel, Mack Reed, Wellington Wallace, John West, and others.

OLD SCHOOLS AND MISSIONS.

The Pecan Creek Mission was located about seven miles west of the present town of Muskogee, Oklahoma, on Pecan Creek and served principally the Negroes. The Superintendent of this Mission

was named Buzz Hawkins.

The Tallahassie Mission was located at the present town of Tallahassie, Oklahoma, and was in charge of Miss Alice Robertson.

The Wealaka Mission was located near the present town of Leonard, Oklahoma.

The Cherokee Asylum was located in the Spavina Hills, near the present town of Salina, Oklahoma.

The Creek Orphanage was located just outside of the Northeast city limits of the present town of Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

The Creek School was located at the present town of Coweta, Oklahoma.

The Bacone Mission was located northeast of the present city of Muskogee, Oklahoma and is now known as the Bacone Indian School.

The Boys Seminary was located about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of the present town of Tahlequah, Oklahoma. This school burned down in 1910.

The Female Seminary now known as the Northeastern Teachers College, was, and is still, located at the north end of main street in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

The Park Hill Mission was located about twelve miles southwest of the present town of Tahlequah, Oklahoma. I believe the village of Park Hill still exists.

RAILROADS.

The following railroads were built through the Territory as I am giving you by names and dates. Santa Fe in 1886, M. K. & T. in 1872; Missouri Pacific, in 1887, K. C. S. in 1894, Midland Valley in 1904, K. O. & G. in 1907, and C. O. & G. now Rock Island which passed through McAlester, Oklahoma in 1892.

COMMENTS.

MR. Spencer spent his early days as a cow hand and spent many a long day and night, if need be, in the saddle. He pushed the little doggies along, rode the herd, made the round-ups, did the branding, and loved to ride and rope and bust broncos when time did not interfere with his other duties. When he and his cow pony were alone out on the wide open range, the cattle grazing contentedly on the prairies of tall sage grass and blue stem grass, he dreamed of the day when he could own herds of cattle of his own and he

strived to that end. Being thrifty, reared with cattle as he was, he learned the business from every angle and his dreams came true, because over in the Concharty Mountains west of his present home at Haskell, Oklahoma, he acquired the Double Hill Ranch and handled thousands of head of cattle yearly. He became acquainted with another in his line of work and a man whom every one in Eastern Oklahoma today knows directly or indirectly, Mr. Al-Todd, and he with Mr. Todd, formed a partnership and bought the Lazy "S" Ranch on Cloud Creek from H. B. Spaulding which partnership lasted for twenty years and all their business transactions were mutual and agreeable and they are today life long friends. Mr. Todd lives a few miles south of Muskogee, Oklahoma.

While Mr. Spencer is 69 years of age, he is seemingly hale and hearty and to talk to him one would think him to be a much younger man, for his life spent in the open, apparently was his calling. He speaks of the days of the 1900's as of only a few years ago.

He has retired to a certain degree and feels that he has lived for himself and his family and he has made them a loving father and a devoted husband. He is loved and cherished by all of his friends and associates both old and new, and has helped to make this the grand state of Oklahoma with its churches, schools, and institutions of higher learning that it is today, and we pay tribute to him at this time for all that he has done for us.
