

STULLER, JIM L.

INTERVIEW

#12484

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Form A-(S-149)
12481BIOGRAPHY FOR
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for OklahomaField Worker's name Charles H. HoltThis report made on (date) December 14, 19371. Name Jim L. Stuller2. Post Office Address Hominy, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location)

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year 18825. Place of birth Illinois6. Name of Father J. H. Stuller Place of birth Illinois

Other information about father

7. Name of Mother Mary Rifenberg Place of birth Pennsylvania.

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 _____

Charles H. Holt
Investigator
December 14, 1937

Interview with
Jim L. Stuller
Hominy, Oklahoma.

Jim L. Stuller was born in Illinois in 1882; his parents moved to Kansas when he was a very small boy and when he was eleven years old, in 1893, the family came to the Indian Territory. The trip was made in covered wagons, bringing with them their household goods, three teams of good heavy horses, farming tools and ten head of good roan Durham cattle. The cattle they prized very highly. The father had made a previous trip into the Territory, but had not decided definitely where they would locate, but the first stop was made at Newkirk. They stayed at Newkirk for two months then went to Kaw Agency, which is about fifteen or twenty miles southeast of Newkirk. At the Kaw Agency a raw quarter section of land was leased.

Dr. Long was the Government doctor at the Kaw Agency at that time. There was no school at the Kaw Agency at that time, except the Government school for the Indians.

After farming on the place at the Kaw Agency for one

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year they knew the place was not what they wanted, so a place was leased in the Osage country near the mouth of Chalk Creek across the Arkansas River, just north of Ralston; also at the Kaw Agency the Texas fever had gotten into the nice small herd of roan Durham cattle, but without any great damage or loss, the disease was overcome.

The place in the Osage country proved to be just what they wanted and was above previous expectations. There was plenty of good bottom land for corn and unlimited range for the cattle and plenty of mast for the hogs. The hogs were increased and soon they had six or seven hundred head of hogs in the woods.

From the ten head of roan Durham cattle brought from Kansas, a herd of over three hundred was raised. At all times the breeding of the cattle improved and this herd of roan Durham was the best herd of its kind in the surrounding country and proved very profitable.

The best cattle market at that time was Elgin, Kansas, but for hogs the market was best at Ponca City.

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There was very little land broken on the place, so a large plow was used; it was called a stump or sod plow, having a nine foot beam and sixteen or eighteen inch blade. Two large teams of horses weighing about fourteen to sixteen hundred pounds each were used to pull the plow. The better corn land was broken first. Sometimes the beam of the plow would be broken, as they would plow up large roots and small stumps, also having so much horse power to it would cause the beam to break, but when it would break another beam was made, usually of elm timber.

On this fertile land a great quantity of corn was raised, which was mostly fed to the cattle and hogs, some being sold to the ranchers for cattle feed in the winter. The price for the corn was usually 10 to 15 cents per bushel.

There was no school or church in the community for two or three years but an old Government house or building was fixed up or remodeled and used for a school house and church. The first teacher's name was Irma Powell, then later a Miss Glass taught the school.

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At first the mail was received from Greyhorse but later at Ralston. John Flora was at the trading post at Greyhorse. There was an old Osage Indian who lived around Greyhorse at that time by the name of Little Johnnie or Shinke.

An old time rancher in that community was Norris Watkins.

Colonel Meyers was the Osage Agent at that time.

Jim Stuller got along with the Osages fine, trading and swapping with them a great deal; he learned to speak the Osage language well and up to the present time has a great many friends among the Osages.

There were a great many cyclones but they usually kept to the course of the Arkansas River and did not do a great deal of damage. At one time the water was blown out of the river for a distance of half a mile. After one of the cyclones Mr. Stuller was riding across the Osage country and in crossing Carter's Ranch saw nine large steers which had been killed by lightning.

The father of the Stuller family died in 1918 and the farming and cattle raising was given up and Jim Stuller now lives in Hominy.