

RIDENOUR, J. W.

INTERVIEW

13790

125

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

126

RIDENNOURE, J. M.

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13790

Field Worker's name Charles H. Holt

This report made on (date)

April 11, 26

1938

1. Name J. M. (Jimbo) Ridennoure

2. Post Office Address Hominy

3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year 1864

5. Place of birth Kansas

6. Name of Father Jeremiah Ridennoure Place of birth Germany

Other information about father Sailed from Germany when two days old.

7. Name of Mother Galathia Rhodes Place of birth Georgia

Other information about mother \_\_\_\_\_

Notes for 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 \_\_\_\_\_

RIDENNOURE, J. M.

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Charles H. Holt  
Investigator  
April 26, 1939.

Interview with J. M. Ridennoure  
Hominy, Oklahoma

J. M. (Jimbo) Ridennoure was born in 1864 in Kansas. In 1886, when a man of twenty-two years old, he decided to come to the Territory for adventure and to see how financial opportunities were, so he saddled his old horse, put his slicker on the back of his saddle, and headed toward the Territory. He took no food nor camping equipment as he was going to eat with ranchers and farmers. When tired at night he used his saddle for a pillow.

Upon reaching Elgin, Kansas, he made further inquiries about the Territory and the prospects of work and some one gave him information about a cattle man of the name of Joe Hurd who was grazing many cattle in the Territory. Mr. Hurd hired him and he herded cattle in the Territory for two years. During that period he had many thrilling adventures and one was when he met the most dangerous man, which then roamed in Oklahoma.

He was riding and herding cattle one day when several soldiers ran him out. This happened several times.

DELRINGUE, J. M.

INTERVIEW

13790

2

a year. As soon as the soldiers left the cowboys would run the cattle back into the Territory but they obeyed the soldiers and did what they told them to do. Mr. [redacted] had run his cattle into the Territory farther than before. It was near Red Rock where they were situated. Mr. [redacted] had corral and fences built and had enough equipment for a ranch. He brought all of his cattle, thirty-two hundred head; which were nice and fat. He brought them to the best part of Oklahoma's grass land. The grass was high as a horse's back in many places. There was plenty of cool spring water for the cattle and that is the reason Mr. Murd chose this as an ideal place. [redacted] eventually the soldiers learned that he had set up headquarters at this point and came there they [redacted] and burned all his equipment and his corral and [redacted] and burned everything; [redacted] cattle, [redacted] him to drive the cattle out of the Territory.

[redacted] during his fence riding "Jimbo" would often kill wild turkeys or quail or even deer and bring them to the [redacted] for food. At this time he had been in the Territory for about two years herding cattle.

RIDENHOUSE, J. M.

INTERVIEW.

13790

3

By this time he had decided that he would like to make his home in the Territory, so returning to Kansas he gave his folks a story of the wonderful country he had been in for two years and advised his folks to leave Kansas, to move to the Territory to live, which advice the parents readily accepted and preparation at once was made to leave Kansas.

Three wagons and a truck were put in readiness for the move. They brought all their household goods, farm machinery, a hundred chickens, thirty-five head of hogs, thirty-five head of thoroughbred Durham cattle and much food supplies such as cured meats, dried fruit, lard, homemade soups, dried beans, canned goods, preserves and other foods for more than a year's supply. There were approximately ten head of horses brought with them.

The chickens and the hogs were hauled in wagons and the cattle was driven through. They settled on some land south of Skistook and rented the place from Finer, an Indian. The land was mostly raw and had to be broken with the exception of a small squaw patch. There was an

WINTER, J. M.

INTERVIEW.

13790

old time home which was there when they came which  
 was repaired and fixed up so that it could not leak.  
 There had been no reparation made for drinking water so  
 the first well. Brekin of the land had begun and was  
 not the first to be done. There was a well  
 in the area. The Texas Fever got into the herd of Durham  
 cows and they lost all except two. Corn was the principal  
 crop of the area and they grew it in great quantities  
 at the shipping point near Coffeyville, Kansas, at  
 the time of the coffee and a little cloth and spices.  
 The other food and equipment was either made or raised  
 locally. There was wild game of all sorts with a shoot-  
 ing party at their house. geese, quail, prairie chickens,  
 and other birds were raised of some. Wheat and corn  
 were the main crops and they had flour and meal.  
 There was no school or church in their community  
 at the time the people there several years after and  
 they were all illiterate with they had no means of education.  
 The school was built two miles from the Ridenoure farm.  
 It was nothing unusual for some of the outlaw gangs  
 of those days to stop for a meal or over night at their

RIDENOUR, J.M.

INTERVIEW

13790

farm. Both Cherokee Bill and the Dalton brothers have  
 stopped at their farm for meals or to rest. Some of the  
 old-timers here: Alex Davis; Al Hoots, and Green Yeargin.  
 Mr. Ridenour (Jimbo) at present resides in the city of  
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