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Field Worker: Warren D. Morse

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BIOGRAPHY OF Kansas Perry Abrams
Marlow, Oklahoma

BORN December 29, 1854
South Carolina

INFORMATION give by Ed. Abrams, son of the above.

K. P. Abrams made a trip to Oklahoma City. He crossed the Little Washita, and went north within nearly ten miles of El Reno and cut across to Oklahoma City. He worked for the Choctaw railroad. He did all the blasting for the right-a-way, staying about five or six months.

In 1894 he took an Indian lease. He freighted south.

In 1897 he took a lease on Indian land, that year they had trouble of some kind with the railroad, and they wouldn't haul the bale cotton so he hauled the cotton by wagon to Belcher, Texas.

When the country opened for Comanches, he was foreman for the Mitchell Wagon company. He freighted from Marlow to Lawton. As there were no bridges, all creeks were forded and "believe me there were many fine dressed men dumped in the creeks when we got stuck."

ABRAMS, ED. INTERVIEW.

Field Worker: Warren D. Morse

BIOGRAPHY OF Ed. Abrams
Route 3
Duncan, Oklahoma

BORN April 20, 1887
Fort Worth, Texas

Father: Kansas Perry Abrams Mother: Fincher

"We came into this country from Fort Worth, Texas, in 1893. We settled at Marlow about one mile west on Brumonds land. We landed there in April, coming by way of the old Chisholm Trail, fording Red river about one-half to a mile east of Terrell, Oklahoma, switched back along the valley to Sugdon, Oklahoma, drifted east about one and one-half miles, just east of Waurika. We stayed east of Cow Creek until we reached the old Duncan store, where we stayed all night. We went on to Marlow store which was located in what is now the northeast corner of town.

"During these years the Comanches, Kiowas, Chickasaws came and would camp in Marlow grove. They would stay two or three days until pay day came. We would play with the Indian kids. They would kill beef and cure it raw by cutting into thin slices, and roll into balls. They wouldn't buy beans. They were great on fresh meat. If government rations gave out, they would kill some of their dogs. Tobacco, why they would trade a paint horse for tobacco and roll it in cottonwood leaves. The government built some houses 24 foot square for them to live in and if an Indian died in one, they burned the house and moved away.

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"We knew the Marlow boys. The one killed was Charlie. George Harbolt didnot have guts enough to shoot him but he poisoned him. He carried Charlie's lunch to him one day, it was supposed to have had strychnine in it. Charlie said, "George, I'm sick as hell." I want a Cigarette." He smoked the cigarette and it wasn't long until he kicked out. George set him up against a stump and shot him. He threwed him in an old open hack, and took him to Henrietta, Texas, and received a reward of \$1000.

" Talk about drouth, back in 1898 we had to drive our cattle fourteen miles, and dig holes to water them. In 1900, we fed 5,000 cattle in south of Marlow, just east of the golf links. In the spring before the opening of Comanche-Cheyenne country we took them near what is now Cement, Oklahoma. I was a kid about 12 years old and was with the chuck wagon. Papa had an old white mare. He told me if the cattle stampeded, when the cloud came up, to get on the horse and ride. That night a cloud came up and a loud clamp of thunder started the stampede. I was on the white horse and going around and round. The first thing I knew they all were following the old white horse and did I ride. The next morning at sun-up I was near Cyril, Oklahoma, with 1800 head of them. The rest was scattered from there across to Ninnekah. This was about the worst scare I got. We

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started from Marlow in April and arrived near Cement about the middle of July.

"I think it was back in 1903 after the country settled up, that the Ringland Brothers circus was showing at Lawton. Five of us left on wheels for Lawton to see the circus. One of the five got drunk and another fellow and myself tried to take care of him. We followed him all afternoon, and that night along about five o'clock there came and 'Oklahoma Storm' of rain and hail. There was a lot of high jacking, and killing going on so we decided to take the boy into the hotel out of the rain. He was cussing, and raising the devil. The proprietor told us to take him out. This boy had \$55.00., and the proprietor told us to take it from him and put him out-side. 'You fellows can stay in here.' So we downed him, and I held him while the other boy went through his pockets and got 40 cents, then turned him loose. The next morning we were all broke, and the landlord told us to take the money and get our breakfast. We did, then started back home carrying our wheels up hill and coasting down, it was so muddy we couldn't ride up. We got home the next night.

"The morning after, Cris Mattison, in charge of Government property came out to the place. He and papa were good cronies, and they had planned a deer hunt. Papa was plowing corn that

morning so he told Cris he would talk to him while he hunted. Cris told papa to wait, that he had come out after that boy of his, that he and another guy hi-jacked a man at Lawton. Papa told me to go on so he took me to Chickasha to Tom Lilly, who says, "Cris, you have a couple of kids there, and laughed at him." He took us to Lawton, hand cuffed about five hundred met us, and began to laugh when they saw we were a couple of just 16 year old kids. I told the judge my tale but they slammed us in jail anyway. In those days court was just like a kangaroo court. The next morning they let us out to try to identify the man and place, we couldn't so they sentenced us to 20 years. The next morning there was a big writeup in the Lawton paper and this proprietor, Daddy Pittman, of traveling rooms saw it, and came to the judge, told him that the boy told the truth. So we were turned loose and they paid our railroad fare back home."

People traded more at Fort Sill than they did at Duncan. As soldiers wore blue then the people were dresses almost like soldiers, who guarded the wood that was too knotty for lumber, and would throw anyone in guard-house at Fort Sill, who was caught taking it.

"Deer and turkey was wild. You could count from ten to fifty in a bunch of deers, and in season all the time. You didn't have to fish for fish, could drag them out of Hell and Beaver Creek with a pole."