

Interview with Joe Howard
Wewoka, Oklahoma
Field Worker, Otis Hume
Wewoka, Oklahoma
July 22, 1937

Joe Howard is now a deputy in the county clerk's office of Seminole County, Wewoka.

During the World War when the United States was calling on her sons to enter the army, there were in this country many men and women who were not loyal to their government. These men went about through the country organizing orders, which they called W. C. U. meaning Working Class Union.

They were well organized here in this country especially in the southern part of Seminole County. Their leaders were not loyal and would do anything to keep their followers from being loyal.

During the summer of 1917, in August I think, about two hundred banded themselves together to try to evade the draft or to keep their sons from going to the war. They planned that when called, they would not go. Their leader had their followers believing that on the same day all over the United States all members of this same order would spring

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to arms and march on their county governments, then on to Washington, thus seizing the government.

They armed themselves with guns, clubs, or anything that they could get to fight with, and they marched across the country, killing cattle and destroying property, finally stationing themselves on a high hill northwest of Sasakwa about five miles. In the meantime, they sent the "laws" word to leave them alone; and threatened if the laws came near, the men would kill them.

Mr. Frank Grall was sheriff of Seminole County at that time, so he got in touch with B. A. Enloe who was United States Marshal of the Eastern District, who immediately sent Deputy Marshal Joe Howard, Bud Gorden, and Henry Moore to assist the sheriff and his deputies to arrest this band of radicals.

These peace officers with a posse of other men went down to Sasakwa to arrest them, locating them as stated before on a high hill northwest of Sasakwa.

When they saw the officers coming, they scattered in all directions leaving behind some of their food, such as roasting ears, and the beef which they had

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killed. The officers and members of the posse gave chase, jumping the rebels out of bushes, fields, and creeks. Most of them surrendered without any trouble and were brought into Wewoka and Holdenville and put in jail, the leaders being taken to the Muskogee Jail. Several of these men had to serve terms in the penitentiary; but the people are trying to forget about all this, and most of those men are now good citizens.