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INDEX CARDS

Ranching

scoutuskee

Cattle--Rustling

Horse Thieves--stealin from Indians.

Law enforcement--Creek

Law enforcement--Seminole

Wild crses

Intermarried whites--Soc and Fox Tribe

Field Worker: Lenna J. Rushing
April 12, 1937

BIOGRAPHY OF Mr. George Brown, (White)
Four miles south, two and one-half mile
east of
Cushing, Oklahoma

BORN Missouri
June 9, 1876

PARENTS No given.

I came with my parents to Oklahoma before the country was opened up. Our original home was in Missouri. We moved around here and there, and finally settled in the vicinity of Cushing near Wild Horse River. The country was still the wild, open cattle range open to every one. There were very few towns, and it was before Cushing was established. Most of our trading was done at Turkey Track Ranch, Bullhall Ranch, and the Sac and Fox Agency. There was also, a store, located five miles north and five and one-half east of Shawnee, called Montuskee, where we did some of our trading. I believe it is still there.

As I grew older I did some horse thieving and cattle rustling along with my farming. During my outlaw days I met the Dalton brothers and also Bill Dooley, another famous outlaw in those days. Two of my companions in the business of stealing horses were Lilford Growing Horn and Deye Bad Fish. It was our practice to steal the horses from the Indians and take them across the Creek County line to sell. With the money received we bought horses for ourselves so that we would not have stolen horses in our possession.

One time a group of Indians went up into the Osage country and brought back an exceptionally good bunch of horses. We determined to get away with some of them, and chose the horses of an Indian named Grey eyes as our victim. We got them, too.

Finally we were scattered. We had been trailed for some time by some of the government men, and the others had been under suspicion for a long time, but it was the Light Horsemen who split us up. We were driving a bunch of stolen horses down towards Okmulgee when the word came that the Light Horsemen were after us. We decided that the healthiest thing to do would be to take out, so we did.

These Light Horsemen were a group of Indians from the Seminole and Creek tribes. They were appointed by these two tribes to keep law and order in their territory. When ever they started to find a fugitive from justice, they got their man. The punishment was severe for horse thieving. The horse thief was lashed many times, and it was sometimes so hard that the man died as a result of it. If a murderer came to the court on the day set for his trial, his punishment would be mild, probably exile from the tribe. However should he run away, the Horsemen were sent to look for him. When they found him, and they always did, he was brought back and usually hung.

There were many wild horses in this territory, too. No one was ever able to catch any of them. I have often wondered what became of these wild horses after the country settled up.

After I gave up horse thieving I married a Sac and Fox woman and we had four children. After her death, the land went to the children and my self.