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INDEX CARDS

Cheyenne-Arapaho Reservation
Opening-1892
Geary

Augusta H. Custer, Field Worker
Indian-Pioneer History
June 12, 1937

A biographical sketch from a personal interview with the subject. East 6th Street, Geary, Oklahoma.

Mr. Brown answered as many questions as he could at this time and stated as follows:

My mother and father were born near Berlin, Germany. They came to America soon after they were married and reared their family in America. I was born in St. Clair County, Illinois, in August, 1859.

My early childhood was spent in Illinois where I learned two trades, that of a marble or stone cutter, and that of a harness maker. With these two means of money-making I have earned my living.

The strip *Cherokee - Arapaho*

In 1891 just before the openings of the ~~Cherokee~~ *Cherokee* and Arapaho strips, I came to El Reno, and made several trips out through this part of the state which is now Blaine County. It was a wild country at that time and there were very few settlers; there were a few big cattle ranches. The Indians were very peaceable and I had no fear of them.

On April 18, 1892, the day before the run, J. C. (Jim) McComb, J. P. Scales and myself sold twenty-six saddles to parties who were intending to make the

run during the opening, which began at noon April 19, 1892. These saddles were sold at different prices, ranging from thirty dollars to five dollars. The last saddle was valued at five dollars and the man pawned his watch, as he did not have the cash; he never redeemed the watch, which was a standard make. I did not make the run myself, but came to Blaine County later and filed on a claim where Greenfield is now located.

Origin of name

Geary was named for a prominent cattle man of French descent by the name of Geereror; his given name was Ed, at least that was the name by which he was known.

Business Career

After leaving the farm, I came to Geary to make my home and I have worked at both of my trades when business demanded. I made and sold harness of any kind to the pioneers in this part of the country and made a good living for my family. I have been married three times and have reared six children.

The usual price for a set of harness was thirty-two dollars and I also made saddles. My leather

came from Kansas City, or some place in Texas, where the tanneries were located.

In my spare time I have carved tombstones. Much of my work can be seen in the Geary Cemetery and other cemeteries near here.

One of my finest pieces of work is on a stone for the daughter of Ed Geereror and is in a field about two miles north and one mile east of Geary.

Law and Order

The first Deputy Sheriff in this part of the country was J. W. Cunningham. Pat O'Conner was Justice of the Peace. There were many outlaws in the country who were considered bad men, as they had no respect for law and order.

One time Mr. Cunningham, McKinnister, a railroad man named Ethel, and myself, decided to clean up the town of these gamblers. The Deputy sheriff failed to appear and the others had more than they could manage and were almost run out of town themselves.

(There is more to this story and the details can be secured from some other parties.)

Burial Grounds

There are Indian graves scattered all over this part of the county but since I came the Indians have always buried their dead in graves. I have heard stories of bodies being placed in trees but have never seen any myself. I have helped remove bodies from fields and pastures where they were first buried and place them in cemeteries, either in Geary or at the Mission Cemetery east of Greenfield.