

Notice of Copyright

Published and unpublished materials may be protected by Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code). Any copies of published and unpublished materials provided by the Western History Collections are for research, scholarship, and study purposes only.

Use of certain published materials and manuscripts is restricted by law, by reason of their origin, or by donor agreement. For the protection of its holdings, the Western History Collections also reserves the right to restrict the use of unprocessed materials, or books and documents of exceptional value and fragility. Use of any material is subject to the approval of the Curator.

Citing Resources from the Western History Collections

For citations in published or unpublished papers, this repository should be listed as the Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

An example of a proper citation:

Oklahoma Federation of Labor Collection, M452, Box 5, Folder 2. Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

INDEX CARDS

Love, Overton
Wealthy Indians--Chickasaw
Slaves--Chickasaw
Negroes--Chickasaw Nation
Trails
Fort Arbuckle
Outlaws--Chickasaw Nation
Ranching--Chickasaw Nation
Game--Chickasaw Nation
Hogs--Chickasaw Nation

Field worker: Jennie Selfridge

BIOGRAPHY OF Mr. Andrew Camp
120 E. Street N.W. Ardmore, Oklahoma

BORN December 25, 1857
Claburn Parish, Louisiana

Father: Garrison Camp Mother: Harriett Clinton

Mr. Camp relates, " I ran away from my home in Hunt county, Texas, when I was fifteen years old, and started out to the Indian Territory to live with my brother Brad Camp, who had settled one mile east of Fort Arbuckle several years before this time.

"I crossed the Red River near the "Sobe" or Overton Love farm, and spent the night at his home. He lived in a large two story house right on the north bank of the Red River, and was farming all the land what is now known as Love's Valley. Before the war he had a large number of slaves, and was still using a good many negroes on his farm.

" After leaving the Love home I took the old "Whiskey rail" toward Fort Arbuckle. The only other place of habitation on the trail between Red River and Fort Arbuckle at that time was a little old log store just north of Caddo creek, although I c n not remember the name of the ol. man who operated it. The trail entered the Arbuckle about two miles east of the present town of Woodford. It was at this place that Charlie Trail built a house several years later. The trail followed a northwest course from there on to Fort Arbuckle.

"One can hardly imagine what a feeling I had when I rode into Tom Grant's yard upon my arrival at Fort Arbuckle, and saw a large panther, which had been killed the night before, lying on the ground.

2.

161

"When I arrived at the Fort there were a few soldiers still camped there, and a large number of Choctaw Indians were camped near. There was a trading post just west of the officers quarters, where the Indians and settlers came to trade. People were honest in those days; in fact they had to be. I remember on one occasion when a man by the name of John Florence stole one hundred head of cattle and drove them to his place northwest of Arbuckle. Perry Russell, Brad Camp and several other men started out after him. A hanging was usually in order in those days, when a cow thief was run down, but this time things turned out different. The men rode up to Florence's home and asked him to come out. He refused, and in the shooting that followed he was shot through the hip. They were forced to leave him that day, although the next day they went back, captured, and carried him to Fort Smith. They then went his bond, and brought him back home. Needless to say, he never stole anymore cattle.

"The first barb wire fence was built several years later by Bill Talley, who bought a piece of land from Brad Camp. The wire for the fence was hauled from Denison, Texas.

"Old man Royer, was the first man to establish a ranch in the Arbuckle mountains. He established his ranch on Honey creek, a short while after the 700 Ranch was established at Ardmore.

"Life Cohee, was an old darkey who lived on the south side of the Arbuckles, and always warned the settlers around Arbuckle when there was danger from cattle and horse thieves. Other negro families in the settlement were the Stevensons and Andersons.

3.

162

"A family named Courtney lived northwest of Arbuckle. The old man and a part of the family moved to what is now known as Courtney Flat, in Love county, while the old lady with three of the boys, two of which were Bob and Tom, remained at the first location.

"Game was plentyful in those days. Plenty of deer, prairie chickens, squirrel, turkey, fish, and no one ever thought of putting a hog in a pen, but just let them run wild in the woods, and they went out and got meat when they needed it.

" I remained on the farm around Arbuckle until last year when I moved to Ardmore, but am thinking of moving back to my farm.

" Mr. Camp stated there were soldiers at the fort in 1872. The fort was abandoned by the Federal Government in 1870.

(end)