



GOLDSBY, F. W.

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Investigator  
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Interview With F. W. Goldsby  
Washington, Oklahoma.

I was born in Louisiana, March 16, 1864, and was removed with my parents to Texas during the Civil War. My father, being a doctor, practiced medicine in Texas for a period of eighteen months. When I was five years old, with my parents, I came to the Indian Territory in 1869.

In Oklahoma Territory the Apache, Kiowa and Comanche Indians lived and these tribes were a very hostile people. They were continually running over, raiding and stealing from the more civilized Indians who were very friendly and could be trusted to any limit, that is unless their trust was betrayed, then it was most generally just too bad for the betrayer.

At first, I settled with Father in the Choctaw Nation on Boggy Creek, north of where Stringtown now is. There was a toll bridge across Boggy, which we rented and built a stage stop there, as that was the route of the old Butterfield Stage Line that ran from St. Louis, Missouri, to San Francisco, California. On an average, about four

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coaches daily came along, drawn by four large horses, and always loaded with people. Hardly a day would go by without one or more stages being held up and robbed, for stage coach robbing was a very common thing. The schedule time from St. Louis to San Francisco was twenty-one days and the rate of travel was 10 cents per mile. Passengers were always in danger of being robbed and many times killed if they showed any resistance toward the robbers. However, that was the only means of transportation in the Territory for there were no roads or bridges except an occasional toll bridge and no towns or railroads. The stage lines continued in operation till several years later when they were replaced by the railroads and other modern ways of travel.

The first railroad to<sup>be</sup> built across Indian Territory was the Missouri, Kansas and Texas, which was built in 1872 after having obtained a permit from the Government. When they crossed Red River a feud began. Some few settlers decided to build a town near the river and did erect several buildings and gave it the name Red River Town, but not for long. The site was in very low ground and the railroad company wanted the town on higher ground so almost as fast as people



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would build houses there the company officials would tear them down and haul them out to higher ground. After several unsuccessful attempts, the people compromised with the company and the old town that was to be known as Red River Town died, almost in its infancy, with the erection of a new town some little distance farther out on the higher land .

Farming was unknown here except for corn which was fed to hogs. When a bunch of hogs were fattened and ready for market they were herded up in the same way as a herd of cattle, driven into Kansas and sold, and when a herd of these hogs were started some wagons loaded with corn also went along. An average day's drive was ten miles, then the hogs would be given a good feed from a wagon and bedded down for the night in the same manner as cattle.

The only trading post in that area was old Fort Sill. Goods and supplies were hauled by ox teams and wagons from Caddo to Fort Sill, a method of transportation known as freighting.

All kind of wild game was very plentiful; deer roamed the range in great herds.

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Later, as the livestock business came to the Territory, I became actively engaged in this business for several years, after which time I became engaged in the agricultural business and have been very successful in retaining the soil of my land and in production of crops.

In the day I came to the Indian Territory, we were Pioneers Number One. By this I do not mean we were the first white people who settled here. Pioneers No. 1 represented rather those of an independent nature, the domineering, proud discoverers, happy in life with the family alone.