

JOLLY, W. A.

INTERVIEW

8425

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
 WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
 Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Selfridge, Jennie

This report made on (date) August 26, 1937

Name W. A. Jolly

Post Office Address Ardmore, Oklahoma Tax Assessor

Residence address (or location) Ardmore

DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 22 Year 1869

Place of birth Mississippi

Name of Father George W. Jolly Place of birth North Carolina

Other information about father _____

Name of Mother Jane Duff Jolly Place of birth Mississippi

Other information about mother _____

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached _____.

Interview with W. A. Jolly
Ardmore, Oklahoma

I came to Woodford in 1892. The town then consisted of one store, which also housed the post office. I began teaching school at a school house on top of the hill near the Sulphur Spring. This school house was a frame building. I taught at this location two years and sometimes had as high as one hundred and twenty students in school. Later, I taught north of Woodford where the Ardmore Lake is now located.

Wood Smith lived on Hickory creek west of Woodford, and put in a ford on the creek, and it was for that reason that the town received the name Woodford.

Smith was a Chickasaw Indian who came from Stonewall, Indian Territory, and later went back there.

They started the grave yard at Woodford by killing a man. The old Whiskey Trail which ran from Gainsville, Texas, to Fort Arbuckle, entered the Arbuckle Mountains one mile east of Woodford, and some desperato characters used this trail.

I will never forget the first whiskey peddler whom I met on the trail. I was in the mountains hunting quail, and decided that an old tree top nearby would be a good place to look. When I walked up to the tree top a masked man stuck out an old long barrellled "45" and asked what I wanted. I told him I believed I would take a quart of whiskey. He got the whiskey ^{with} / one hand and held his gun with the other. I took the whiskey, paid for it, and ran.

A short while later Dr. Miller had an encounter with another whiskey-peddler. This man rode up to Dr. Miller's house one night, called him to the door, and asked him to buy some whiskey.

Dr. Miller tasted the whiskey, and told him he would take two quarts. The price was \$2.00 per quart. The peddler took out two new bottles and Miller paid him for it. When Miller opened his bottles he found that he had two quarts of vinegar. It was several months before Miller picked up enough courage to tell about buying the vinegar.

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"Scar Face Jim" was a frequent rider over the trail and stopped at Woodford several different times. (Frank) C. F. Selfridge was riding the Jennings and Royer pastures and had one or two encounters with him over cutting the line fences over the mountains. They finally compromised by agreeing that "Scar Face" should ride to the gate about a mile down the trail. After that, he never left a gate open or cut a fence. "Scar Face Jim" visited the ranch house several times. Sometimes when Frank Selfridge was away on the line fence "Scar Face" would ride in, cook something to eat and ride on again.

One night while I was working for Holmes Akers at the Woodford store, two suspicious looking characters camped near the store. I thought they intended to rob the store and post office. I went for old Nat Smith and he got on his back porch with his Winchester. From this location he could see the back of the store. Holmes Akers, myself, and several other men stayed in the store. We waited all night but they made no attempt to rob the store.

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The old Bywaters store was across the street from the Akers store, and at that time was being used as a stable.

A. S. Kemper was assistant post master before I went there and took over the job. After I began work in the store J. H. Akers was post master and I was his assistant.

I have served as Notary Public practically all of the time since coming to the Territory, and as County Tax Assessor of Carter County for several years.