

KELIN, W. H.

INTERVIEW

10312

117

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

KELIN, W. H.

INTERVIEW.

10312.

Field Worker's name Lillian Cassaway.

This report made on (date) March 25, 1938. 1938

1. Name W. H. Kelin.

2. Post Office Address Anadarko, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 12th and Georgia Street.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 14 Year 1938

5. Place of birth Illinois.

6. Name of Father Charles A. Kelin. Place of birth Virginia.

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Sweany Kerby Kelin. Place of birth Carolina.

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 _____.

KELIN, W. H.

INTERVIEW.

10312.

Lillian Gassaway,
Investigator,
March 25, 1938.

Interview With W. H. Kelin,
Anadarko, Oklahoma.

I came to Oklahoma Territory at the opening of the Cherokee Strip, in 1892. I made the run from a point between Caldwell, Kansas, and Cameron, south of Anthony. I only went about two miles and staked a claim but was soon contested out of it. There is no Cameron now.

In about 1893 I joined the cattle force of Lewis and Moffit, who were big cattlemen. Their range which was called the Kansas Pasture. It was on Cache Creek northwest of Apache, and extended toward the Kansas line. After awhile I went to work for Mingus and Rathburn, another cattle outfit that was from Mexico. In 1899 I came up around Anadarko and in 1900 I farmed a place about four miles north of Verden that belonged to a Mrs. Rose (now Mrs. Otis Lay).

Fant was another cattleman whose cattle ranged all over this part of the country from west of Anadarko almost

KELIN, W. H.

INTERVIEW.

10312.

-2-

to Chickasha. Fant had the beef contract with the Government for the posts and Agencies. These beeves were issued to the Indians every two weeks.

I believe that old Dr. Sturnas was the Government cattle inspector and a lot of cattle that were brought in were turned back. Sometimes the cattlemen would have an inspector brought in from somewhere else and this inspector would just ride through the herd and let them pass when we knew that they were full of ticks. The cowhands were disappointed when this happened for we expected to rope and throw the cattle for a thorough inspection. But the Inspector would go through the herd so fast we couldn't keep up with him. And then when the Government Inspector went over the herd many of them were turned back.

There were always two roundups a year, one in the Spring and one in the Fall. In the Spring the roundup was mainly to brand the new calves and any cattle that had been missed in the Fall roundup and to cut out those that had been sold. In the Fall the roundup was to cut out the fat cattle that were to be taken to market and then, too, during the Winter cattle of other brands would wander over

KELIN, W. H.

INTERVIEW.

10312.

-3-

unfenced ground and get mixed in other herds. It was at these roundups that each rancher had a chance to get his cattle that had strayed. These roundups took days; the boys would make the round of the range, which usually covered miles and miles of land, and bring in all the cattle that could be found. They corraled them in as clear a spot as could be found and there is where the cutting would take place. After each ranchman had then separated his cattle from the herd, the man whose place the roundup was on would begin to cut out the fat beeves for market.

These beeves were driven to market in the early days, though later they were shipped from the nearest railroad. The cattle were driven to the Gloss Mountains in a bunch and there they were separated and some went to Caldwell and some to other points.

In a hard cattle will go in files, one just behind another, thus cutting a trail several inches deep in a very little while so there are trails that were made just from one range to another and lead to nowhere in particular. We took our cattle to market over the Western Trail.