

INDEX CARDS

Noah Lael
Stage Driver
Fort Arbuckle
Ranching
Cyrus Harris
Smith Paul

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

Field Worker's name Maurice R. Anderson

This report made on (date) May 3 1937

1. Name Mr. C. E. Lael

2. Post Office Address Wynnewood, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) He is Postmaster

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year 1887

5. Place of birth Old Mill Creek, Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory.

Mixed blood Indian, Chickasaw

6. Name of Father Noah Lael Place of birth Mississippi

Other information about father Deceased

7. Name of Mother Lucy Harris Place of birth Chickasaw Nation
Indian Territory

Other information about mother Deceased.

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 MR. C. E. LAEL
Born 1887, at Old Mill Creek
In the Chickasaw Nation.
Maurice R. Anderson, Field Worker

My father, Noah Lael, came to the Indian Territory in 1872. He first settled near Sulphur Springs, Indian Territory, in the Chickasaw Nation. He carried the mail on horseback from old Fort Arbuckle, Indian Territory, to Gainesville, Texas. Later he worked on the old stage line from Fort Sill, to Denison, Texas. My father later owned the Three X Ranch; his brand was three X's with the figure 5 on the right jaw. I don't know much to tell about, only what my father has told me. He had cattle ranging from Wynnewood to Atoka, and I have heard him say in round-up time the cattle men around Wynnewood would go in together and each one would furnish so many men and a chuck wagon. They would round up a large bunch of cattle and cut out each man's brand and start them back home. He said sometimes they would have some trouble about the calves. They would watch what cows the calves went to, and whose brand was on the cow, then it was his calf. As for cattle stealing, there wasn't much of that took place. My father said, he knew of several families who had killed some of his steers. The negroes were the worst he said, to kill beef steers. I have heard my father say that under the old Chickasaw

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Indian law you could only fence one square mile, as the
rest was called public range. Father never dealt in
cattle much until after the railroad went through, then
~~he~~ shipped most of his cattle to Kansas. I have heard
him say that corn-fed steers would bring from four to five
cents a pound. My grandfather on my mother's side was
Governor Harris. He and Smith Paul (the Smith Paul that
located Pauls Valley) brought a wagon train from Mississippi
to the Indian Territory. I have heard my grandfather say he
and Smith Paul walked all the way.