

METHVIN, J. J.

DETRICH, WILLIAM A.

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

METHVIN, J. J. - INTERVIEW.

10587

Field Worker's name Lillian Gassaway

This report made on (date) April 25, 1938

1. Name J. J. Methvin

2. Post Office Address Anadarko, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 709 West Alabama

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 17 Year 1838

5. Place of birth Jeffersonville, Georgia.

6. Name of Father John Methvin Place of birth Georgia

7. Name of Mother Mourning Glaver Methvin place of birth Georgia.

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 3.

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Gassaway, Lillian. - Investigator.  
Indian Pioneer History- S-149  
April 25, 1933.

Interview with J. J. Methvin  
Anadarko, Oklahoma.

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William A. Detrich

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William A. Detrich came to Oklahoma from Iowa in 1878. He married Lotsa Chandler, whose father, Joe Chandler was a ranchman, and who had a great deal of influence over the Indians. After their marriage they went down on Red River to make their home. They lived there a while over a year when the cattlemen sent a troop of Indian Police, under Jimmie Jones to put Mr. Detrich and his family out of the Territory into Texas. The cattlemen grazed their cattle all over that part of the territory then, paying the Indian Chiefs for the use of the land. The cattlemen thought that Mr. Detrich was a cattle thief, for they thought no honest man would live there. Suggs was the biggest cattleman at that time.

Instead of handling a thief through the courts they took things into their own hands. The courts were so far away and, too, the outcome of a trial was very doubtful.

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A man could be gotten rid of and no one would be any the wiser. They took Mr. Detrich to be a cattle thief, so the Indian Police were sent by Suggs to put him out of the country, and destroy all of the improvements that he had made. The police lay around a few days recovering from a drunken spree, then they put Mr. Detrich out of the Territory. Mr. Detrich put his wife and their baby on a horse that was a shallow swimmer and Mrs. Detrich didn't get even her feet wet in crossing the river but Mr. Detrich was not so lucky. He got wet up to his neck, and some of the police nearly drowned.

The Detrichs had been in Texas some time when a friend secured permission for Mr. Detrich to return to the Territory. This time he settled farther down the river. He had left his wife in Texas while he prepared a place to live. He was making a dugout to live in when one day a messenger came from Suggs with word to move out again, and go on back to Texas. Mr. Detrich was determined to stay in the Territory and said as much. He soon afterward went to visit his wife, then went on to Wichita Falls to settle things with Suggs. On his way to Wichita Falls he bought a gun from a

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frontiersman and went on to see Suggs. While waiting for Suggs to come along, he saw Jimmie Jones, who advised Mr. Detrich to move, that they would get him if he didn't. In a little while Suggs came up, and seeing Detrich asked him when he had come in. Mr. Detrich told him that he had come in just a little while before. Suggs asked: "When are you going out?" "When you do," Detrich answered. "How are you traveling?" "Horseback", said Mr. Detrich. Suggs suggested that Detrich tie his horse by the side of his and ride in the buggy. Detrich accepted this arrangement. Suggs had two guns stacked by his side against the seat, and a six-shooter on his belt. Detrich had the gun he had bought that day. They rode for some way, each on guard against the other. After a while Mr. Detrich said: "Well, I guess we had better get down to business, and get this thing settled". Suggs was surprised at Detrich's frankness and desire to have things settled one way or the other. He told Mr. Detrich that the cattlemen didn't believe that an honest man could live in that part of the country and they had started to go after him and hang him, thinking that he was a cattle thief; but if he would move around Anadarko

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he would pay Mr. Detrich for all he lost by such a move. Mr. Detrich refused to accept any favors from Suggs, but later, rather than to be in so much danger he did move up to Anadarko, and settled on a place just southeast of town. He came to Anadarko in 1884 and lived on the place of his early choice until his death.