

HOLDER, AL A.

INTERVIEW

#8745

222

HOLDER, AL A.

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

8745

223

Field Worker's name Jennie Selfridge

This report made on (date) October 1, 1937

1. Name Al A. Holder

2. Post Office Address Ardmore, Oklahoma, Hofbar Rt.,

3. Residence address (or location) Five Miles Southwest

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 26 Year 1856

5. Place of birth Denison, Texas.

6. Name of Father W. L. Holder Place of birth Alabama

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Mary Looney. Place of birth _____

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 _____.

HOLDER, AL A.

INTERVIEW.

8745

An Interview with Mr. Al A. Holder, Ardmore,
By - Jennie Selfridge, Field Worker.
October 1, 1937.

Al A. Holder was born at Denison, Texas, September 26th, 1856. In 1878, he came to the Indian Territory and began work for Kimberlin who lived at White Bead Hill. Kimberlin had married Puss Mitchell, a Chickasaw Indian girl, who lived on the Indian Territory side of Red River near Rock Bluff Ferry. He controlled a good deal of land and cattle in the vicinity of White Bead Hill. The ranch where Holder worked was between Paoli and Wayne on Owl Creek.

In 1880, Holder married and moved to Holder, in the Delaware Bend. A large tract of the land around Holder was owned by three of Al's brothers, George W., I. B., and Ivo. Dick Blackburn ran the post office at Holder, and Dr. Dave Autrey was one of the doctors. Other doctors were Dr. Ligon and Dr. Graham. They all had plenty of practice, since Holder was in a low region and people were always having malaria and chills. They had a subscription school and the tuition was \$1.50 a month per pupil.

Strother Brown owned the Ferry boat in Delaware Bend and lived on the Texas side of the Red River. The settlers at Holder traded at Denison and Dexter, Texas. Most of their cotton was sold to W. F. Whittington at Dexter.

In 1882, Al Holder, assisted by twenty other men, drove six thousand head of cattle from Paris, Texas, to New Mexico. They crossed Red River at Rock Bluff Ferry, then went by way of Caddo, Boggy Depot, Mill Creek, Cherokee Town, Pauls Valley, White Bead Hill, Bean Creek, ~~Fort Sill, Cap Rock, and by way of a fort in the Texas~~ Panhandle and on into New Mexico.

The cattle were moved for a man named Crawford who lived in Kansas and they were five months and seventeen days making the round trip. The cattle were poor when they left Paris, but were in good shape when they reached New Mexico.

Holder also worked for Zay Kimberlin, who worked in the bank at Sherman, Texas. He would buy up cattle around Sherman, and have Holder to ship them from Denison to White Bead Hill.