

LOUDERMILK, G. E.

INTERVIEW

12004

319

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

Field Worker's name Mary D. Dorward

This report made on (date) October 9, 1937

1. Name G. E. Loudermilk
2. Post Office Address 722 South Owasso, Tulsa, Oklahoma
3. Residence address (or location) 722 S. Owasso, Tulsa, Okla.
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_
5. Place of birth North Carolina

6. Name of Father \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother \_\_\_\_\_ 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 4.

LOUDERMILK, G. E.

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Interview with G. E. Loudermilk,  
722 S. Owasso, Tulsa.

G. E. Loudermilk was born in North Carolina about 1857. He first came to Tulsa in October, 1885, as Civil Engineer for the St. Louis & San Francisco Railway Company when the Frisco was extended from Tulsa to Sapulpa. The extension was made in order to save certain land grants which the company was in danger of losing unless the extension was made. The road at that time was known as the Atlantic and Pacific. Trains were run only about twice a week.

The terminus was named for an old Indian who lived along Rock Creek, not a great distance from the terminus, <sup>Sapulpa</sup> the name being chosen by the railway company who wished to keep on the good side of the Indians. Sapulpa was a Chief among the Creeks who had come to Indian Territory from Alabama when a little boy. He had not come with any colony but had, as modern boys would say, "hitch-

LOUDERMILK, G. E.

INTERVIEW.

12004.

2

hiked". A peculiar thing about that old Indian was that he had never had but one name, Sapulpa.

While building the extension to Sapulpa the employees of the railway company camped along the right of way. Their meals were prepared by the company cook. There was much wildgame such as turkeys and deer, and the cook would trade with the Indians for them. The Indians were especially desirous of getting salt meat and would trade a turkey for fifteen cents worth of bacon, about a pound, or the hind-quarter of a deer for fifty cents worth of salt meat or bacon, about five pounds.

Loudermilk left Indian Territory in May 1886, and did not return until 1907, when he settled in Sapulpa. There had been no settlement at Sapulpa until about 1905, when with the discovery of oil in the Kiefer District settlers began to come in. Kiefer was named for a squaw man who owned land in the vicinity.

LOUDERMILK, G. E.

INTERVIEW.

12004.

Squatters came in and built shacks, paying the owner about a dollar per month for the use of his land.

When Loudermilk returned to Sapulpa in 1907, it had already grown to a town of about three thousand five hundred population. There was great rivalry between Sapulpa and Tulsa, each of which at that time had but one railroad, but it was not long until the M. K. & T. built a line through Tulsa and was soon followed by the Midland Valley, giving Tulsa an enormous advantage over its neighbor. This soon ended all rivalry.

Loudermilk was elected the first commissioner of public works for Sapulpa in 1909, the town previously having been governed by a mayor and council instead of commissioners. It was while Loudermilk was commissioner that the waterworks and sewer were put in. The Frisco road was needing more water than

LOUDEMILK, G. E.

INTERVIEW.

12004.

4

the town could provide so the water supply had to be increased. He contributed to the development of the town by erecting several business blocks, as well as becoming interested in banking and other enterprises. He saw the town grow from about three thousand to eighteen thousand in population.

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