

INDEX CARDS

Chisholm Trail
Intruders--Chickasaw Nation
Intermarried whites--Chickasaw Nation
Docks Store
Stage routes
Ranching--Chickasaw Nation
Hunting--Chickasaw Nation
Mail routes
Plains Indians--raids
Fort Sill
Militia--Chickasaw
Indian fights--Chickasaw-Plains Indians
Plains Indians

Field worker: Warren D. Morse

419

Story of settling of Stephens County (General History)

Told by Henry Tussey

Tussy, Oklahoma

Early settlers in and around Velma received their mail from Old Healdton at Fort Worth, Indian Territory and it was run by Mr. Weldon from Fort Worth, Texas. The mail was carried by stage which stopped two miles east of the present site of Velma.

Mr. Henry Tussey came into the country in 1874, settling near Tussey, Oklahoma, a village named after him. He had to marry an Indian in order that he might file a claim. The Indians held an encampment four miles south and two miles west of Mr. Tussey's place.

The Government built a house in 1894 on Jim Fitzpatrick Creek near Duncan store. Later was torn down. This creek was named after Fitzpatrick, who had a ranch on this creek. One old ranch building is still standing just north of the Duncan Lake. The Indians would steal cattle and horses from this ranch and run them to Anadarko. One Indian, Gaddo Jo, stole John Bob Frenselev's favorite horse in the group. He trailed them to Fort Sill and asked permission to go after the horses but was refused. He decided to go after them anyway so he started to Anadarko and overtook Gaddo Jo riding his own pony. He pulled the Indian off the horse

and brought the group of horses back. The Indian militia gave warning that all stock had to be Indian owned and a white man could not work for an Indian. A number of so called "Nesters" fenced some land for grazing, but the Indian militia came and cut the fence and ran the people back across Red River.

(End)