



**MERIMON, LARKIN V.**

**INTERVIEW  
BIOGRAPHY FORM**

4451

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Robert H. Boatman

This report made on (date) June 16 1937

1. Name Larkin V. Merimon

2. Post Office Address Cole, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) Cole

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month July Day 24 Year 1871

5. Place of birth Washington County, Arkansas

6. Name of Father William S. Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about father Died at age of 76

7. Name of Mother Sarah Walton Place of birth Kentucky

Other information about mother Died at the age of 82

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.

Robert H. Boatman  
Interviewer  
June 16, 1937

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Interview with  
Larkin V. Merimon  
Cole, Oklahoma.

In 1896, at the age of twenty-five, Larkin V. Merimon drove a herd of four hundred cattle from Parker County, Texas, to Indian Territory for Perry Thomason. Mr. Merimon, with three other men, drove the cattle on horse back; they came by Ardmore, swam the Red River at Gainville, a task which took a day and a half.

Very few of their cattle were drowned. Rafts were made and the very small calves were floated across. As the trail was very tedious the cattle were driven very slowly. At the head of the herd was an old steer, the leader. When this steer sensed or smelled danger he stopped, pawed the ground or gave some other sign of uneasiness. Upon looking around the cowboys usually found that there were wolves or some other "varmint" following the cattle. More young calves were lost in this way than in any other. They came by Davis and upon reaching Daugherty they turned the cattle on to the range. The drive averaged six miles a day.

After Mr. Merimon came to the Indian Territory he joined the "Anti-Horse Thief Association." He rode for two years for the organization. His life as a rider was very

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interesting. He went to town about once every six months. On his trips to town he bought flour, meal, sugar, and syrup; sometimes he bought beans.

There was plenty of wild game, furnishing meat for the settlers, and they had eggs from the turkeys. They did their cooking on open fires when the weather permitted. It was Mr. Merimon's job to help prevent the stealing of cattle and to keep the cattle branded. They were branded on their right hooves.

After Mr. Merimon quit riding he worked for the Brunswick Mining Company mining asphalt, near Davis. When the asphalt was taken out of the ground it was a brownish black color of a semi-soft material. The mine in which Mr. Merimon worked supplied asphalt abundantly and when the layer of soil was removed the asphalt was scooped up with shovels. This mineral was hauled by wagon to Ardmore, and as it was of good quality it was easily marketed. The mine was owned by K. Ainsworth and is still actively producing.

After two years of working in the mine, Mr. Merimon gave up his job and went to Ada. There he hauled freight

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from Pauls Valley to Ada. Ada was then a small place with only one store, a livery barn and corral and two houses. The country surrounding Ada was mostly wooded with only a clearing now and then. It was on these small plots that the homesteader raised his few crops.

At harvest time the homesteaders took their surplus products to town and bartered them for the supplies which they needed. Thys it was that Mr. Merimon saw Ada before the railroad was built. He saw the first railroad line built through Ada. The first train was crude and the freight rates were high but in all the railroad was a success. Today Ada has a population of almost twelve thousand.

Mr. Merimon says that he has made lots of dye. He boiled sumac berries and blue stone together, making a liquid bluish brown color. He used this to dye the home spun cloth which was used to make clothing.