

BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pitman Post Office

HORNE, H. E.

INTERVIEW

10065

Field Worker's name Robert A. Small

This report made on (Date) February 11, 1938

1. Name H. E. Horne,

2. Post Office Address Braman, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 7 Year 1863

5. Place of birth Maine

6. Name of Father G. W. Horne, Place of birth New

Hampshire

7. Name of Mother Elizabeth Thair Horne Place of birth Massachusetts

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 5.

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Robert W. Small,
Investigator,
February 11, 1938.

Interview with H. E. Horne,
Braman, Oklahoma.

Since 1873, at which time I was ten years of age,
I have been familiar with the Indian country.

In 1877 I worked herding cattle on the grass lands
of the Cherokee Strip. It was a custom for people living
in nearby Kansas who had small herds of cattle to send
them down into Oklahoma to feed on the grass and I was
at first employed by a number of these people to herd
their cattle. In the Winter time I was at work help-
ing haul timber out of the Territory to build houses
with in Kansas, to make posts and for fuel and other
purposes for which timber might be used.

So many people who had small herds of cattle in
the Territory and some who had large herds became inter-
ested to the extent that the Cherokee Outlet was leased
for grazing purposes and ranch boundaries were fixed or
agreed upon and cowboys employed to watch the different
herds of the ranchers and keep the cattle under control

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or on their respective ranches without the use of fences. These cattlemen formed the Cherokee Livestock Association, with headquarters at Caldwell, Kansas.

The people of Kansas continued to visit this section of the country after wood for fuel and other purposes and an enmity grew between them and the cattlemen because the Kansas people thought that the stockmen or the large ranch owners were tipping the soldiers and officers of the Government in an effort to have the wood haulers prosecuted and stopped in their traffic in wood. Although a number were hauled before the courts from time to time and caused considerable expense and trouble, they escaped any penalty severe enough to discourage their practice and the ranchers finally decided to fence their ranches and stop people from driving back and forth across them with their wood. The fencing of ranches was begun about 1885 and soon all the country was enclosed with fences.

I was a member of Captain Payne's colony at Rock Falls, and received a certificate of membership from Mr. Payne. I was personally acquainted with Mr. Payne and he was often

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taken a prisoner by the soldiers and taken to Fort Smith, Arkansas, for trial in the United States Court, but on each occasion he was found guilty of no crime and was released from custody.

There were about one hundred fifty people in the colony at Rock Falls, most of whom were men without families. The colony did not long survive after its establishment as the soldiers took Mr. Payne away and broke up the colony; this was his last attempt to establish a colony prior to his sudden death, which occurred at Wellington, Kansas.

The ranchers accused the wood haulers of starting prairie fires that often swept an entire section of country if no stream of water made a barrier to hold it in check. The grass, when it became dry was still valuable for feed to winter the stock when the weather was favorable, but the fire could soon destroy an entire section of grass country. The ranchers thought the wood haulers were setting it on fire deliberately and thus this matter was a cause for fencing the ranches to keep the wood haulers out.

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I visited the Nez Perce tribe of Indians a short time after they were brought onto their reservation. The Government had a sawmill put in on the Chikaskia River a short distance above the site of their Agency, which was operated by a white man and lumber was sawed from native timber to be used in building houses for the Indians. Yellow Bull was a Chief of the tribe but an Indian known as Chief Joseph was the leader or most influential of the tribe and a very intelligent Indian. The tribe as a whole consisted of not more than two hundred fifty or three hundred people, and were a very peaceable tribe in this country and religiously inclined to an uncommon degree.

During the early years of my experience in the Cherokee Strip it was customary for cattlemen of Texas to drive large herds of their cattle over the Chisholm Trail to this country and sell them to cattlemen here. They would be paid in cash which they would pack into a pair of saddle bags and throw across their saddle and return to their homes and I recall of no instance that any of them were ever molested

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on their way home. There were no banks in this country and people carried their money in their pockets unless it was a considerable sum; in that case they would lay it away in a shoe box or some similar receptacle about their home.

I was in the Run when the Cherokee Outlet was opened; I made the race on horseback and staked a claim three miles west of Blackwell, but did not hold it. I later secured the Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 17, Township 28 North, Range 1 West.

I engaged in the grain business in the late '90's and followed that business for thirty-four years in and near Braman, but have retired from active work of any kind at this time.
