

MERCHANT, S. H.

INTERVIEW

#4997

166

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

Field Worker's name Warren D. Morse

This report made on (date) July 20, 1937

1. Name S. H. Merchant

2. Post Office Address Duncan, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month April Day 25 Year 1860

5. Place of birth Denton County, Texas

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Warren D. Morse,  
Interviewer.  
July 20, 1937

Interview with S. H. Merchant,  
Duncan, Oklahoma.  
Born April 23, 1860.

I came from Clay County, Texas, in 1889 and settled near Comanche. I stayed there and then made the "run" into the Cherokee Strip. It was so sandy and the sand blew all the time.

I made this "run" with Tack Douthitt. We came through here and then went on to Hennessey. We trained our horses and ran over the line. We didn't get our allotment, however, we stayed all winter. Why, the wind blew so hard, we couldn't put the blankets on our horses; we just threw the saddle on and rode away. I was out with Bob Holt. We stayed all night at the Texas wagon yard at Duncan and then rode to Marlow, Rush Spring, and Chickasha and on to a cow ranch near El Reno.

We saw many buffaloes. Everything was wide open and you could ride for miles and never see anything but a cow ranch. It certainly was all a fellow could do to keep his mouth shut.

I was associated with Caleb Burnett who was a nephew

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4997

- 2 -

of Burke Burnett the big rancher. I went to school with Tom Bray and Sam Brown who were at the Oklahoma National Bank.

I used to ranch a little and I could get a few cattle ahead. You see, when I hired out to a man I would go off to a round-up or away from a gang and take a saddle ring, heat it red hot and by crossing two sticks through the circle, I used it as a brand. I could cover almost any brand this way and it looked just like my brand. One time I asked Cal Suggs for a job. He said, "Hell no", It wouldn't be long until you would have me working for you".

Cal was a mean man. He shot his own foreman, Canterbury. Canterbury was herding a bunch of calves one day when Cal drove up on him, Cal raised his gun and shot Canterbury in the breast. You see <sup>Cal</sup>/~~see~~/didn't like Canterbury very well because Canterbury had married Cal's niece.