

CARSELOWEY, JAMES R. THE NEAR- CHEROKEE-CREEK WAR.

3517611

James R. Carselowey, Interviewer,
Indian Pioneer History S-149
September 22, 1937.

An interview with
H. W. Hicks,
Vinita, Oklahoma.

THE NEAR -- CHEROKEE-CREEK WAR.

I was in the vicinity at the time the near Cherokee-Creek War was staged, and will give you some of the occurrences that led up to the tragedy.

The line between the Cherokee and Creek Nations, at the time of the threatened war, crossed the Arkansas River near the mouth of Grand River, then followed up the Verdigris River to above where the town of Okay is now located, thence north, leaving Wagoner in the Creek Nation and Chouteau in the Cherokee Nation.

There were three prominent families living southeast of Wagoner who were farmers and stockmen. Their names were Cobb, Norman and Jackson. (Captain Jackson, so called.)

Between the Verdigris and Arkansas Rivers in the Creek Nation, there was a neighborhood or settlement of mixed blood Creek and negro families. This settlement was sometimes called "Point" but usually Marshalltown, and was inhabited practically by what we called "niggers", a low class citizen, harboring

many of the lawless elements, including such characters as Bob Marshall and Dick Glass.

Being near the line, and the country thinly inhabited, it was an easy matter for these colored people to slip across the Cherokee line, gather up a few head of fat cattle, and run them across the line to their settlement, butchering them there or driving them to Muskogee and selling them. The three men mentioned above were the victims.

This soon became intolerable to the ranchmen, and they began watching their cattle on the range. One day two of their riders, Billy Cobb and Alex Norman, riding the range, caught up with the thieves driving a small bunch of their cattle toward the Creek Nation. A small battle was immediately started, but the two Cherokees, being badly outnumbered, were soon put out of the fight. Billy Cobb was killed in the first volley, and Norman was badly wounded.

Norman's horse, being a half broken cow-pony, ran away with its rider, taking him out of the fracas, and really saving his life, as he eventually recovered.

The next day word of the murder reached Fort Gibson. The town was full of men from the

surrounding country, as a Cherokee Payment was in progress. The road to the ferry, was soon crowded with men rushing to the aid of the three ranchmen. The ferry-boat was kept busy all of that afternoon, and until late in the evening crossing the creek over Grand River.

By morning there were several hundred men assembled, and the three ranchmen had furnished food and ammunition for all who came. By the next morning they were all organized and equipped, and together made the advance on the settlement, determined to avenge the raid, and arrest the men responsible for it.

Imagine their surprise when they found upon their arrival that the settlement was practically deserted, and not a man to be found. Marshall, Glass and all the rest were gone. The men burned a few shacks, left a few notices pinned to doors, warning the inhabitants never to cross the Cherokee line or steal their cattle, under pain of another visit. They heeded the warning, and so far as I know never stole another animal. Thus ended the near Cherokee-Creek War.

Both Cobb and Norman were fine young men, reared by good parents, and received their education in the

CARROLL, JAMES

FELIX M. ADAMS

#763354