

INDEX CARDS

Stage Routes  
Harris Family  
Renching--Chickasaw Nation  
Openings--Old Oklahoma  
Silver City  
Percentile Establishments--Chickasaw Nation  
Caddo  
Wealthy Indians--Chickasaws

Field Worker: E. A. Cabler  
April 6, 1937

BIOGRAPHY OF: Ben F. Collins  
Chickashaw Indian and White  
Minnehah, Oklahoma  
BORN: Chickashaw Nation  
1870

Ben F. Collins, a Chickashaw Indian born in 1870, in the Chickashaw Nation close to Tishomingo in Johnson County, at a place called twelve mile prairie.

In 1889 riding my hoses, meaning horses, the way he speaks it, I was roading around up the Washita River and stopped at Luncocif crossing, on the little Washita, staying there a few months, I went back to the Chickashaw Nation, close to Wynnewood and Tishomingo. In 1891 I came back up here and settled and went to work for George A. Deeler, riding after cattle. I owned some good race horse, the fastest in the country.

I could not make the run my self but there were a lot of differnt men wanted me to ride the run for them in 1889, but I would not do it.

I was in the run but not running for any land. I just wanted to see what was going on and have fun.

I remember after the run a few days a boy came home, and all you could <sup>see</sup> about their faces were the white art of thier eyes, dirt was just as thick as it could stick, they reelly looked funny.

country was down close to Rush Springs on Rush Creek. It was called "The Old Far Lost" office. Three of the stage drivers were, Noa Leal, Mack White, and Viney, they all married old Governor Harris's girls.

When a stage would get robbed on a run they would always drive straight on through to Caddo, for it was the main Government post. The name of stage line was South West Stage Company all of the horse and mules bore the brand of S. W. C on their left hip.

They used horse on the east runs and mules on the west runs.

Thad Cabler built the first store building at Old Silver City for Old Jim Raney, a rich Indian.

One day I was riding after cattle, when I rode upon an Indian camp of children and they were screaming and hollerin "Kay C" "Kay C" meaning can not understand.

I was married along in 1894 or 1895 to Annie Thornton who lived on twelve mile prairie. She came from Kentucky to East Texas then to Oklahoma. Of my children Ray, Jennie, and David all drew Indian allotments but Lorne was not old enough.

\*\*\*\*\*