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Cherokee Strip  
Kiowa-Comanche Opening  
Surveying  
Quannah Parker  
Panther Spring  
Buffalo Trail

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

413  
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Field Worker's name Ruth Lee Gamblin

This report made on (date) April 22, 1937

1. Name Mr. L. H. Colyer

2. Post Office Address Frederick, Oklahoma.

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

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

5. Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

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 5.

Note; Mr. Colyer helped survey Tillman County, also Wichita Mountains.

I was born in Illinois, in May, 1860, and came to what is now Oklahoma, first in 1879. I have lived in twenty-three different states, but have made Oklahoma my home since 1900. I am full blood English.

I first settled in Kiowa County and I will state that the real reason for my coming to this country was the oil business.

I made the run in Cherokee Strip but did not draw any land. I then came to Anadarko together with my wife and daughter. I was in Anadarko when the country opened, and while in Anadarko I made a survey of the Wichita Mountains for gold. It was at this time that I had quite a lot of dealings with the Indians. We had more trouble with the Comanche tribe than any others.

While I lived in Anadarko I had the pleasure of attending a big picnic in Hobart, Oklahoma, arranged by Congressman Bird McGuire. Two very special guests were Chief Lone Wolfe, and Quannah Parker. They each made a talk and I shall never forget one statement Quannah Parker made; he said, "We love you white men, but we have fear of your success because it is so dry. This is a pretty country but you white men take it away from us. The only thing this country is good for is red ants, coyotes, and

cattle men." I also remember that Quannah Parker had seven wives. It might sound rather strange, but he had a big fence built around his home to keep them in. When this country opened he was told to get rid of all but one, so he said he would keep Too Nicey because she was a good gambler.

This country at that time was well supplied with buffalo and wild turkey. In 1872 a troop of cavalry soldiers were out rounding up some Indians. This was in dry, hot weather and as they rode up a spring they were thirsty so they rushed down to the spring just in time to see two large panthers run out. The soldiers found out that the spring did not have a name, so the commanding officer suggested they name the spring Panther Spring, so it has carried that name ever since. This spring is located on the south side of <sup>the</sup> Wichita Mountains and at the head of Deep Red Creek.

In the year of '72 eight buffalo hunters were hunting buffalo along Deep Red Creek when all of a sudden they were attacked by Indian warriors who were Comanches. This fight lasted one day, but not a white man was killed.

There was a buffalo trail north of Grandfield and Deep Red Creek. It started about midway in Cotton County, and

is in short grass country because the buffalo would not go around timber.

As I have stated I surveyed this country in 1879-81. This was not an easy job even though we did make good money. We had so much trouble with the Indians. This County was organized in 1907. It was taken from the Comanche County then, and in 1911 they took a piece from Kiowa and added to Tillman. Tillman County is in southwestern Oklahoma and is bordered on the west by North Fork River, and on the south by Big Red River. The south border state <sup>is</sup> Texas. This county has nine hundred square miles or five hundred seventy-six thousand acres. All the south half is called Red River Valley. Only one creek of any note passes through this county, and it is Deep Red Creek. The soil in the west half runs from sandy loam to very sandy low sand and sand dunes. The central part running to <sup>the</sup> east border is of red rock and soil which belongs to the permian formation.

Frederick is the county seat. Tillman County has a population of twenty-four thousand three hundred and ninety people of which three hundred are negroes. This County is well traversed by good highways. The elevation

of Frederick above sea level is 12,030 feet. We had to go to Fort Cobb after supplies while we were surveying, and we lived in covered wagons and camps.

In 1872 Dr. Dan opened a general supply store on North Fork of Red River and he surveyed a crossing on North Fork, it was then known as Dan's Crossing. This store was on the old Chisholm trail. It was traveled by buffalo hunters and cattle men. The old trail forked at Dan's Store, and one branch went west; the other went through Wichita Mountains and terminated in Kansas.