

COLEMAN, HARRY.

INTERVIEW

9814

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LEGEND & STORY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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Field worker's name Louise S. Barnes,

This report made on (date) January 24, 1938

1. This legend was secured from (name) Harry Coleman

Address Geary, Oklahoma

This person is (male or female) XXXXX (white, Negro, XXXXXX),

If Indian, give tribe \_\_\_\_\_

2. Origin and history of legend or story \_\_\_\_\_

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached \_\_\_\_\_

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Louise S. Barnes,  
Investigator,  
January 24, 1938.

An Interview with Mr. Harry Coleman,  
Geary, Oklahoma.

I was born in Iowa, 1881, and came to Oklahoma with my mother that same year, from Nebraska. I attended school in the Arapaho school at Darlington, where my father taught several years. Then I moved south of Watonga with my parents, where my father was Indian Farmer over District 9.

Some white families who lived near Arapaho carried water from a nearby spring, and it was while one of the women was gone to this spring to get water that an Indian boy tried to pull her from her horse. The boy knew this would get him into trouble, so he ran off from the camp where he stayed and went to an adjoining camp and traded his striped jacket to Cossy Red Lodge for his coat. This, of course, caused the soldiers to think Cossy was the boy who had caused the trouble, and when they arrived, after being notified the description of the boy, they shot Cossy through the leg when he

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started to run and as the boy turned and went toward the officer, the officer began to walk backwards. Cossy kept coming closer, then the officer stumbled and fell on his back and Cossy jumped and grabbed the officer's gun, and would have shot him if my father, George Coleman, had not arrived in time to get the gun from Cossy.

Father got Mr. Foose, a lawyer from Watonga, to go with him and they took Cossy to Arapaho to the doctor, but on the road Father met a soldier and told what had happened, and that Cossy had explained about changing clothes with the other boy, Father knew if the Indians found out about the accident they would go on the warpath and they would probably burn the town of Watonga. Father gave the soldier a note and told him to get to Captain Headacan, of the camp on the Washita River, because he wanted him to send guards as soon as possible to save the town. Washita River was out of its banks and rising all the time but this did not keep the soldier from delivering the message. He rode with great speed and crossed the Washita, going straight into camp on the run, which

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was against the rules, but, of course, the captain knew something was wrong. He read the note, ordered out ten soldiers and told them to ride like never before to save the town. They crossed the roaring Washita River safely and arrived in Watonga at ten o'clock. You could hear their horses a mile away. They rode into town and dismounted and placed the town under martial law. Father would not let Cossy Red Lodge go home that night, he made him wait until morning for he was afraid that it would not help matters any to have him to go back to the camp and relate to them what happened. Cossy returned to camp the next day, but he must have told them Watonga was under martial law because the Indians caused no trouble.