INDEX CARDS:

Cherokee Strip
Woodward
Field Worker's name: Alson J. Chase

This report made on (date): July 19, 1937

1. Name: Zachariah Ellis Coombes

2. Post Office Address: Woodward, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location): 511 Texas Avenue

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month: November Day: 23 Year: 1863

5. Place of birth: Johnston County, Texas

6. Name of Father: Zachariah Ellis Coombes Place of birth: Bourbon County, Kentucky. Other information about father.

7. Name of Mother: Rebecca Bedford Place of birth: Bourbon County, Kentucky. 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.
An Interview with Mr. Zachriah Ellis Coombes.
By - Alson J. Chase, Field Worker.
July 19, 1937.

Zachriah Ellis Coombes came from Texas in 1896, and located and filed on one hundred and sixty acres north of Woodward. He came overland with a team and wagon. He built a two room box house. He had very little furniture. He had to dig a well for his water. He handled cattle and came to Oklahoma in order to have grass for them.

He farmed some; raised mostly feed for his cattle. In the spring of 1897 he planted forty acres of Kaffir corn; raised a good crop but the prairie chickens ate up all the seed before he could get it gathered.

In 1909 he moved from the farm to Woodward and worked for the Renfrow Investment Company, acting as their land loan inspector. When he first made his inspections, he would go on horseback, leaving on Monday morning and would probably be gone over a week. Later, they furnished him a team of mules and a buggy to make the trips with, and he continued traveling this way until 1912 when the Renfrow Investment Company got a car.
for his work.

He continued working for them at this same work for twenty-five years. He was using his thirteenth car when he quit making inspections. This thirteenth car was burned up in a fire in the Ferguson Garage here two years ago.

In the early days of his inspections Mr. Coombes was also in charge of exhibits for the county fair. He would gather the exhibit while he was out making his inspections; he would gather them himself. His line of exhibits were grain and poultry. One year he gathered a bundle of wheat on the Buffalo Creek, up by Buffalo and it took the prize at the County Fair. He would also take his line of exhibits to the State and other fairs. He took this bundle of wheat to the fair at Tulsa and took first prize; then to Wichita, Kansas where it took second. He said this wheat was seven grain to the mesh.

Mr. Coombes still resides in Woodward.