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Creek Freedman
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United States Marshals
Lighthorseman

LUCKY, LEWIS E.

INTERVIEW

Form A-(S-149)

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BIOGRAPHY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

6417

Field Worker's name Jerome M. Emmons

This report made on (date) June 24, 1937

1. Name Lewis E. Lucky

2. Post Office Address Route 3, Box 24, Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 1 1/2 miles south of Country Club.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 10 Year 1872

5. Place of birth Choska, near the Arkansas river and Washell, Oklahoma
as it is now called

6. Name of Father Thomas Lucky Place of birth Unknown

Other information about father Born a slave

7. Name of Mother Lora Down Place of birth Unknown

Other information about mother Born a slave.

Both parents buried at Wagoner, Oklahoma.

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 _____

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Interview with Lewis E. Lucky
Okmulgee, Oklahoma

Mr. Lucky, a negro, who is a freedman and allottee, lives one and one-half miles south of the Okmulgee Country club.

I came to Okmulgee with my mother and stepfather when I was about nine years of age. I was born at Chooska near Muskogee, Indian Territory.

My father worked clearing land for others. He cultivated only about five or six acres himself. My parents separated and both married again.

My stepfather worked at odd jobs and hunted game. We lived on the outskirts of Okmulgee. He brought furniture and some furnishings with us for our log house. We burned wood for fuel and obtained water from a well.

EMPLOYMENT

We were not in the best of circumstances, so I started working on Captain Fred Sever's ranch at Bald Hill, when I was twelve or thirteen years old. Several other negro boys worked there. They went to school and worked on the ranch in the summer. However, my mother preferred that I go to school in Okmulgee. I worked at the ranch for three or four years, as a cowboy. Groceries were bought at Captain

Severs store in Okmulgee. Mr. Severs had a horse ranch near what is now called Morris.

GAME

There was plenty of game here, but although I was too busy with the cattle, to hunt much, I have killed many wolves on the ranch.

CREEK COUNCILS

I have attended Council meetings, but can tell nothing of importance about them. I voted for L. C. Perryman for Principal Chief. He was Chief in 1893, when F. C. Hubbard of Muskogee published the constitution and laws of the Muskogee Nation, written by A.P. McKellop, under the act of October 15, 1892. I have a copy of this book.

GREEN PEACH WAR

I was living west of Muskogee during this war. My uncle was on Checote's side and my father on Esparhecher's. I remember we had a horse that we kept hidden to prevent Esparhecher's men from stealing it. I was arrested one time when going to the mill, but the judge who tried me ordered me turned loose. They thought I was carrying weapons, if I remember correctly.

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MILLS

The only mill or waterwheel, that I can remember, was called Wild Briar, now Bird Ark. It was located north of Muskogee on the Verdigris and Arkansas Rivers. This mill ground only cornmeal. We took corn there and exchanged it for cornmeal.

FERRIES

The Henry Texas and the Tobe Drew ferries were operated both on the Arkansas River north of Muskogee. Meecha Ferry was operated by an Indian of that name.

ALLOTMENT

I received 160 acres, section 21-13-13 in 1904. I also received money payments for land sold by the Creeks and Freedmen in Old Oklahoma. I received one payment of \$29.40 and one of \$4.00 before statehood.

United States Marshals

I remember Baz Reed, Crowder Nicks, and Bud Ledbetter, all of whom worked out of Muskogee. Also Grant Johnson, a deputy, Mark Moore, and Jesse Allen, who now lives near Bristow. Allen ran around with a man named Heck Robbin. When these two got together someone was apt to die.

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OTHER RANCHES

Buford Miller, George Clinton, and Fenton Sanger, whose ranch was this side of the Red Fork and whose brand was Spike S, were some of the ranches I remember.

TRADING POST

We traded at Muskogee, as there were no stores near the place where we lived.

OKMULGEE

As I first remember Okmulgee there was only one store and a blacksmith shop. The store was owned by a man named Major Cramer, and Silas Smith had the blacksmith shop. There were also a few cabins in what was later the townsite.

BUCK GANG

Rufus Book, Wyoma July, Lucy Davis, a Seminole Indian, Sammie Sampson, and Lewis Davis, were members of this gang. The first three were captured by a posse. I rode in the wagon with Sampson when he was brought in. Lewis Davis, I believe, came in and gave up. He was shot in the arm or leg.

Edmond Harry was Captain of the Lighthorsemen, who went after this gang. A shot fired by Rufus Book went through his hat, creasing his head, and knocking him down.

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He got up and started shooting again. Thomas Grayson, Sandy Tobler, George Brown, a man named Souazy and one whose name I don't remember, were other members of the Lighthorsemen participating in this affray.

COURT HOUSES

There were court houses at Nuyaka, High Springs, and near Checotah/Boynton. Sparhecher had a Court House on Salt Creek.

CAMP MEETINGS

There were camp grounds at Cassatah, Nuyaka and Salt Creek. A Methodist or Baptist preacher usually held the services at these meetings. The Indians killed a beef and the women prepared food on the grounds.

At one camp meeting at Cassatah, they had eighteen beaver and stayed for a week and a half.

STOMP DANCES

I used to attend stomp dances, but I would never take the medicine. I have seen some good games of Indian ball also.

BURIAL GROUNDS

There was an Indian graveyard near the depot when I came here, and another one near the site of the present

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funeral home in Okmulgee, on East 7th Street. There are both Indians and freedmen buried there.

EXECUTIONS

Timmie Jack was brought here from Euchee Town for trial and executed. I saw Duke Berryhill carry out this execution.

ALLOTMENTS

I knew some negroes named Sneeds, who got by the Dawes Commission and secured allotments. They were not entitled to them. Many were aided in getting land by crooked lawyers. Some succeeded, but others were removed from the Creek rolls.