

Mr. Grant Foreman Director,
Hibbs, Field worker
Indian-Pioneer History S-149
April 22, 1937.

An interview between Mr. Endsley J. Jones
of 2240 East 10th Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Lawrence
D. Hibbs, field worker, on early Indian Territory
History as live and told by his father.

My father, Dan W. Jones, was born in 1847, in
Randolph County, Indiana, and came to Caldwell, Kansas,
when a young man, later locating at Pole-Cat ranch in
Oklahoma, located on the old Chisholm trail. This was
only just a short distance from Caldwell, Kansas, just
across the State line. While there, he met and married
my mother who was living in Caldwell. My mother's name
before she married was Jennie McDonald and she was
born in New Orleans, La. They were married at Pole-Cat
ranch in 1879, by Rev. Neil, a Methodist Minister of
Caldwell. I still have their marriage certificate.

They invited a sort of a mixed crowd for their
wedding. There were some Soldiers from Ft. Reno who
were doing guard duty along the Chisholm trail, some
Indians and some Cowboys.

2

In about 1873 my father started working for the stage line that ran through there. He was sort of an Agent for them. This Stage Coach line ran parallel with the old Chisholm trail and over what was known as the Reno road. This coach line later became known as the Cannon Ball Stage Coach Line, and later became a subsidiary of the Rock Island Railroad. This road built into Caldwell in 1886 and I can remember the first train coming into Caldwell. The Stage Coach ran from Caldwell to some place in Texas.

My father bought the Red Fork ranch which was located where the town of Dover, Oklahoma, now stands in 1875 and sold it in 1882 to some men by the names of Lee and Reynolds. This ranch consisted mostly of the Commissary and Stage Coach station. It was one of the relay stations for the drivers to change horses and to get their meals and to rest and wait for their return trip. After my father sold the ranch, he continued to stay on at the ranch and dealt in cattle. He would buy cattle from the Drag herd; that of course was cattle that were not able to keep up with the main herd. He would put these cattle out to pasture and feed them until the following drive and then would sell them to the

3

ranchers when they would be coming through with another bunch of cattle. But all during this time he still retained his connection with the Stage Coach line, and retained this connection until the run in 1889. The closest white settlement to Red Fork ranch was the Kansas State line which was 82 miles north.

My father with his family left Oklahoma when the Proclamation was issued to open Oklahoma and went back to Caldwell where he stayed for about two years, the allotted time a man had to be out of the territory that was to be settled on. He brought his family and came back to Red Fork ranch on the morning of April 22, 1889, which was the morning of the day of the run, and he proceeded on to the west line of old Oklahoma which was two miles west of the ranch (which was on the line of old Oklahoma and the Arapaho Nation) and stayed there until what he thought was twelve o'clock noon and then made his run to a spot south of the Cimarron and staked his claim, and he was already there when the people came through making the

run. After he filed his claim at Kingfisher, he relinquished it to his father and then his father relinquished it back to him. This made it a good title and was a common practice at that time. On the same day in the afternoon a man came driving a team of oxen across the south side of my father's claim and staked out the next claim to him. That evening he came over to our tent and wanted something to eat, said he had five children and that his wife had died back in No Man's land while waiting to make the run and that his youngest child was about a year old. My father told him he would pay him two dollars to plow a fire guard around our tent with his team of oxen, which he did and took the two dollars and went to the Commissary at Red Fork ranch and bought some food.

This man's name was Halstead. The next morning we noticed some men, about six of them, over on Mr. Halstead's claim and after a little we saw Mr. Halstead coming over our way. When he got here he told father the men wanted twenty-five dollars or they would jump his claim, so father sent him on back home and got on his horse and rode across the river to where some of his friends had filed and told them of the situation so they all rode

back across the river to where these six men were and told them if they were still there when night came, they would be hung so they left at once and never came back. This Mr. Halstead stayed on there and became a very well to do farmer and later acquired several of the adjoining farms.

We continued to live on there for about six years until the death of my mother in 1895, at which time my father sold to a man by the name of Jackson. He then moved back to Dover and went into the Livery Stable business, which business he ran for about five years, selling this in about 1900 to the Allen brothers, after which time he moved to Muskogee with my brother and me. He died in July 1910.

My father was the first Chairman of the first Central Committee of Kingfisher County, and was elected to go to Yukon, Oklahoma, to help organize the Territorial Government.

My father kept a record of the people who drove cattle over the Chisholm trail and the number the number in the drove and in the year of 1878 they drove something over 200,000 head.

6

My mother was the organizer of the original Woman's Relief Corp of Oklahoma and was first Department President. This was at Dover, Oklahoma, or rather it became Dover later, as my mother lived on the farm at this time.

My father, mother and brother are buried at Dover and the Cemetery is on the old Chisholm trail where I also expect and request to be buried.

I was born at Red Fork ranch in May 27, 1880, my one brother was born in Caldwell, Kansas, in 1883 and he died in Water Valley, Texas, in 1914. His name was Benajah M. Jones. I was the only white child born in that part of the country before the opening, except a girl, Faunie Colson, who was born some place in that country.

I left Dover when I was about twenty-one years old and went to school at Peoria, Illinois, and then came to Muskogee and became associated with the ... K. and I. railroad. This was about thirty-two years ago and I have been in this territory ever since and am still with the same railroad. I married Florence Spradling of Muskogee, whose people had come from Kentucky. We were married in 1911 and have three children.