

CARL R.

TODD'S RANCH.

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TODDS RANCH - CHECOTAH, OKLAHOMA.
FROM VARIOUS INTERVIEWS.
By Carl Sherwood, Field Worker.

In January 1892 James S. Todd came to Checotah, Indian Territory, from Fort Worth, Texas, and leased thousands of acres of grazing land from the Creek Indians.

He leased the Bob Gentry Ranch which was located at the South edge of town, which is now occupied by one of the Government C.C.C. Camps. His largest pasture was known as the Bond Switch pasture and was twenty miles square, and required two cowboys to ride the line and patch up the fence which was often cut by people who would take a near cut rather than ride to a gate. The cattle ranged as far west as Okmulgee.

The Texas cattlemen bought many different brands of cattle in the Spring of 1893. James Todd shipped about ninety thousand head of cattle out of Texas and unloaded at the Checotah and Oktaha stock-yards. Of this amount he had twenty-two thousand head of one and two year old steers which were branded in his own brand "J". Connected as they were unloaded from the cars, the cattle he held over and fed through the winter as feed was very cheap. He would contract hay meadows which would be cut and stacked. The four cotton gins in Checotah furnished him cotton seed which sold at that time for \$1.50 per ton. The next year they would be fattened and shipped to the market.

Sherman Moore was foreman of the ranch, and today has a ranch of his own near Dewey, Oklahoma. The following are the names of some of his Texas cowboys: Guff Taylor, Jim Parmenta, Guss Milstead, Ed Doan, Charlie Orman, and Bill Jones.

The Todd Ranch had a large dining hall and a long table filled with the

welcome at the ranch, and the cook and horse wrangler was always ready to take care of them and their horses.

Mr. J. S. Todd organized and opened for business, The First National Bank at Checotah, Oklahoma on July 5th, 1898.