

MUNDY, E. E.

INTERVIEW

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BIOGRAPHY FORM  
 WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
 Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Selfridge, Jennie

This report made on (date) August 4, 1937

1. Name A. E. (Leek) Mundy

2. Post office Address Madill, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) Madill, Oklahoma

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 22 Year 1860

5. Place of birth Cooke County, Texas

6. Name of Father Wm. Franklin Mundy Place of birth Alabama

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother Pline J. Cuperton Place of birth Alabama

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Field Worker, Jennie Selfridge,  
August 4, 1937.  
Interview with A. E. (Leck) Mundy,  
Medill, Oklahoma.

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When I first came across Red River into the Territory I began work for Jerry Washington on the "I S" ranch about four miles north and west of the present town of Ardmore.

At this time Jerry Washington had about five thousand head of cattle, three hundred stock horses and a hundred saddle horses. He usually employed from ten to twenty-five ranch hands. That same year he sold his ranch at this location to Cal Suggs and established a ranch near Mud creek.

I worked for the Washington brothers for ten years. During that time I helped to make two trips to Hunnewell and Caldwell, Kansas. On each trip we took about fifteen-hundred head of cattle. We would let them graze along the way and they would be fat by the time we reached market. From eight to ten cow hands went with the cattle. One man would look after the saddle horses and another would look after the chuck wagon and do the cooking. On one trip Washington bought fifteen hundred head of steers and we drove them back to the South Canadian River. I left the outfit there

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and went home, although in a short while I was back working for Jerry Washington again at the "700" and "I.S" ranch. This was several years before the establishment of the railroad.

I have stayed at the "700" ranch (where Ardmore is now located) for days at a time by myself and I would really get lonesome. Every afternoon I would ride out to Adamy Jimmey's point and on down to the "Devils Back Bone" (where Lake Murray is now located) and look across toward Red River for some of the boys. I was always glad to have anyone for company who would come along. I remember one Christmas especially, when I stayed at the "700" ranch by myself, and all of the boys left the Suggs Rancho. That was really a lonesome old time.

We got all of our supplies at Gainsville, Texas, and could go over there and spend a year's salary in one day and night.

Jerry Washington could not read nor write. The only thing he could read was his brand "I S." He had a big gin, mill and store in Cooke County, Texas. He usually kept his farmers supplied with tobacco, beans, corn meal and bacon. In the Fall he would gin their cotton and take it and stamp it with the "I S" brand in payment for the supplies he had furnished them during the year.

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Hamp Willis (who was later my brother-in-law) was on the Indian police force and helped to cut down the first telephone line that was ever put through Ardmore. The telephone company failed to get a permit from the Indian Government to establish the line.

Hamp also helped to cut down four miles of barbed wire fence for Bill Washington. This fence was a four-strand, barbed wire fence with real good cedar posts and the Indian police cut the wire twice between each post. Bill Washington set out to get revenge. That night the police camped at the present site of Lake Murray. They left their horses staked out nearby and Washington's men killed twenty-four of them. Jerry Washington and Judge Lindsay from Gainesville went to Tishomingo to see what could be done about it. Bill Washington called together thirty of us ranch hands, supplied us with plenty of guns and ammunition and told us to camp up on Pennington Creek near Tishomingo. He intended for us to fight it out with the Indian police if they failed to compromise with Washington and Judge Lindsay. Late that afternoon Washington came and told us that they had compromised by paying the Indian Government \$100.00 apiece for the horses.

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We were really a happy crowd for we knew if we had gone into a battle with the Indians at Tishomingo they would have killed everyone of us.

I finally left the Washington ranch and went down into what is now Marshall County and began work for Jim and Ed Bounds. I worked for them the two years before I was married.

I was married to R. Britt Willis' daughter, Mary, although it looked for a day or two like I would not get my marriage license. The morning I decided to get my license I left the Bounds ranch and went to Tishomingo. The District Judge there told me that he could not issue the license and that I would have to get it from a County judge. He also told me where I could find a County judge about one hundred miles up the Washita, west of White Bead Hill. He advised me to ride my horse over to the Ardmore depot and leave it there and catch the local out of Ardmore for Pauls Valley. I did as he told me but the local failed to come through. The next morning I caught the train for Pauls Valley. After arriving there I rented a buggy and drove to White Bead Hill. Here I ate dinner with John Worley and drove on out to Judge Dunkin's home. When I got there Judge Dunkin was gone. I drove several miles down the road and found him and he told me that he could not issue

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a marriage license because he did not have any blanks with him nor did he have any at home. I told him I had to have the license since I had come over a hundred miles after it. He talked awhile and finally took my daybook and wrote out the license in it. I couldn't read it and don't believe he could either. I then gave him \$50.00 and drove back to Pauls Valley. I took the horses and buggy into the livery stable and started for the depot, when the boy who took charge of the horses told me to wait because I had driven one of the horses so hard that it wouldn't be fit to drive again so I paid him \$50.00 for the horse. I then caught the train for Ardmore. I went to sleep on the train and did not wake up until we were between Ardmore and Overbrook. I had to go on to Overbrook and didn't get a train back to Ardmore until the next morning. Here I got my horse and rode back to the Bounds place and was married. We were married by the Reverend Haftman from Lebanon.

I gave my marriage license to the Dawes Commission and they carried it to Washington, D. C. They said they would frame it. We were married under the Indian law, and have been married forty-eight years this last March. A year or two later some white men were forced to pay as much as \$1,000.00 for marriage license

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when they married Indian women. After I was married I worked for Jim Bounds five years longer and then established a ranch of my own on Glasses Creek. I always kept from five hundred to fifteen hundred head of cattle.

I was with Heck Thomas and Jim Taylor just thirty minutes before they killed the Lee boys. Two or three hundred of us hunted the Lees for several days. Finally Alva Roff put \$4000.00 in the bank at Gainesville, Texas, as a reward for these two Lee boy bandits, dead or alive. They were not killed in Oklahoma as some people believe but in Texas.

Taylor and Thomas never did get close enough for the Lee boys to see them. The Lees never fired a shot. After they were killed Taylor and Thomas fired fifteen or twenty shots to make people believe there was a gun battle. We then put the bodies of the Lee boys into a wagon and hauled them to Gainesville. I went along to identify them. The \$4000.00 reward was paid that day. After that Thomas and Taylor continued their work as deputy marshals.

I reared two boys, Jim and Everett Mundy.