

~~LOWRY, J. M.~~

INTERVIEW

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

Field Worker's name Louise S. Barnes

This report made on (date) March 23, 1938

1. Name J. H. Lowry

2. Post Office Address Kingfisher, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day 25 Year 1863

5. Place of birth Richland, Wisconsin

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

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 3

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Louise S. Barnes
Investigator
March 27, 1938

Interview with J. H. Lowry,
Kingfisher, Oklahoma.

I came to Oklahoma Territory in December, 1891, from California to join my parents and to take part in the Cheyenne Opening. I was born November 25, 1863, in Richland, Wisconsin. My parents had left me and come to Oklahoma Territory in 1889, and after they found there was to be another Opening they wrote for me to join them in Kingfisher so I came through from California on the train.

I made the Run in the Cheyenne-Arapaho Opening but did not file for I did not like the land I could secure. I then went into the grocery business and ran a store for several years.

In 1892 Judge McGee and Bob Lyles, a young attorney, wanted to go on a hay rack ride and so we decided to attend an Indian dance that the Indians were having about four miles west of Kingfisher. We had a very large rack and Dr. Doorley was the driver. The group got together before we started

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and decided it would be fun to try and scare the Judge and Attorney Lyles. and all were much interested in the idea of having some fake Indians to surround our wagon on the way to the dance to see what these two men would do.

It then was arranged to start at a certain time and then the men would know when to play Indian. The girls were in on the deal and said that if some Indians did not attack our wagon ^{before} we could get to the dance, we should have a good time. The Attorney, Bob Lyles, bragged how he would protect his girl if anything should happen, not thinking there was going to be trouble. After we had driven only a short distance the Indians began to shoot and yell and were those two men scared! The driver fell backward and yelled, "I am shot, everyone for themselves". The Attorney jumped out of the wagon, started running south and ended up at Fort Reno. He came back with two troops of soldiers whom he had told that the Indians were on the war-path and were going to kill a lot of people if they did not come to Kingfisher. Judge McGee ran north and found Uncle John's Creek and walked back to Kingfisher. The rest of

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the bunch went on to the dance and had a good time, laughing at the two brave men. and how brave they were.