

LUCKSTED, JOHN E.

INTERVIEW

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

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Field Worker's name Robert W. Small,

This report made on (date) April 27th, 1938

1. Name John E. Lucksted,

2. Post Office Address Newkirk, Oklahoma,

3. Residence address (or location) Same.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 6 Year 1867

5. Place of birth Kansas

6. Name of Father J. C. Lucksted, Place of birth Germany

7. Name of Mother Nancy Mains Lucksted, Place of birth Ohio

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 6

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Robert W. Small,
Investigator,
April 27, 1938.

A Biographical Sketch
John E. Lucksted,
Newkirk, Oklahoma.

I was born in the state of Kansas, on March 6, 1867. Father had moved to Kansas during the Civil War and was employed in hauling munitions and provisions for soldiers; having been in such service at the battle of Pea Ridge and other places. I spent several of my early years on cattle ranches in Oklahoma and in 1892, I left Cedarvale, Kansas, with a wagon and team, my destination being the White Eagle Indian Agency near the present site of Ponca City. When I reached the line of Kansas and Indian Territory, I went through a swinging wire gate and was then on what was known as the "neutral Strip" which was a strip of land about one-fourth mile in width extending along the Kansas line in Indian Territory and sometimes called quarantine lands. Passing across this neutral strip I went through another gate into the Hewins Cattle Ranch and passed out of that ranch near the present site of Shidler; crossed the Arkansas River at the B. & M. Ford and camped at a spring that is now

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on South 14th Street in Ponca City. I camped at this spring for two days as I was waiting for a bunch of cattle to be shipped up from Texas and unloaded and driven to the Osage country for pasture. These cattle had been bought by John Gamble, who had leased a part of the Hewins Cattle Ranch, known as the Hay Creek pasture.

There were a thousand head of these cattle being shipped to Mr. Gamble and also a carload of horses to be used in driving them and for ranch work later which had also been bought by Mr. Gamble.

When the cattle began to arrive at the loading pens of the Santa Fe Railroad Company about two miles from the Indian Agency, we drove them up north a little way to about the place where Ponca City now is located and we held them there until the last car had arrived and also the car of horses and after the last cattle had been unloaded and placed in the herd a few miles north of unloading place, we held them all there for nearly two weeks. Many of the cattle were weak and needed rest and time to recuperate a little; they were the long horned type of cattle, three year old steers and wild; they could easily be stampeded by a man on foot as they were not afraid

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of men on horses but were afraid of a man on foot and would stampede and run. We drove the cattle to the Hay Creek pasture; there were a number of cowboys and a cook; one cowboy and a cook had accompanied me from Cedarvale, Kansas, when I went down. We cowboys had to take our own saddles, bridles, etc. and we each got a pony out of the load that was shipped with the cattle. On the way to the pasture with the cattle some of them were weak and would get into boggy places and mire down and some died on the way; when one died we would trade it to the Indians for blankets. About three days were used in getting the cattle to the pasture. In June, 1892, I helped drive forty-five hundred head of cattle from the Cherokee Strip to the Hominy School's pasture in the Osage country. There were about twenty of us cowboys and the boss taking this herd. When we got to the Henry Grammar Ford on the Arkansas River the river was bank full. The boss asked me if I could swim and I told him that I couldn't; he got a man with a canoe and told me to get into the boat and lead my horse with a lariat and let him take the water behind the boat so the cattle would follow the horse. I got in the boat and the man started rowing across the river; my horse came in and

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he went down under the water and came up pawing with his front feet and he kept up this lunging until it looked as though he was going to get into the boat with us or sink it and I hollered to my friend to row fast and hard or the horse would sink us in the river. We managed to keep out of the horse's reach and made it across the river, but the cattle refused to follow the horse and they kept them there till late in the afternoon before they could get them to take the water, but finally when one started they all followed and crossed in due time. The other boys swam their horses across and we got the cattle out upon the prairie near the Henry Grammer ranch house and camped for the night.

The chuck wagon had to be taken several miles up the river to cross on a bridge and then it came back down to the place where we crossed. The second night we camped on Salt Creek and the next day we got the cattle into the pasture. I worked one year on the Hewins ranch and in the Winter we fed cattle--about four hundred head for the market.

Mr. Hewins was one of the finest men I ever knew and his family were fine, also; he lived in Kansas, but often came down

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to the ranch; he was very kind and generous to everyone, even to strangers.

The Hewins ranch house was a log house one and a half stories high, with a big fireplace in one end and in the southeast corner there was a bed which Mr. and Mrs. Hewins occupied when they came down; the boys all slept in the upper part of this room where bunks were placed for all of us.

The kitchen and dining room were in a long lean-to room built on the side of the main house; the kitchen was furnished with a big range stove, plenty of cooking vessels and there was a negro cook. We were fed plenty of good wholesome food, evaporated apples, peaches, and fruit of all kinds; canned corn, tomatoes and other vegetables and fruits and plenty of beef almost all the time. We also had sour dough biscuits and black coffee. The boys did their own laundry and patch work. Occasionally we had dances at the ranch house and sometimes at other places in the country. Most of the time suppers were given at the dances. The cow-boys respected everybody and they demanded the same respect from others.

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I was in the Race when the Sac & Fox country opened and thought I had a good claim but found out later that it was Indian land. I was also at the Kickapoo opening but did not like the country and made no effort to obtain land. I saw several deer in the Kickapoo country that were on the run; these deer had been scared by the invasion of men into the country.

When the Cherokee Strip was opened I took some men from the East to the Chilocco Reservation who just wanted to see the race, and we came on to the Newkirk townsite where we saw a grocery store had been set up in tents in a few hours after the race and all kinds of people were there. Most of my life has been spent in the Osage country; I lived on the first rural route out of Ponca City, across the Arkansas River in Osage country. I came to Newkirk in 1934 and have resided here since.