“The Rush from Texas” by Newton F. Locke

November 5, 1893
Dear Tom,

When the 18th arrived we had our 5 race horses in fine fix, went out to the line and took our places about one hour before starting with twenty thousand people. The line at our point was 14 miles long and at 12 o’clock when the signal sounded, the ground start was made, I looked down the line for an instant and it appeared like a huge serpent moving, it was the most people I ever saw together. The crowd was composed of all nationalities. All classes of men from the gray haired Grandfather to the boy of 12 years, dudes, school mamas [sic], bicyclists, and the train with 33 cars and 3 engines was all in the start. You can amain[sic]ge how I feel mounted on a Texas horse my chances were certainly very few. However myself and comrades rode on together at our usual Texas gate for about 7 mile [sic] until we got out horse well heated and covered with foam and as fast as we could. Not to hurt our horses. We then began to get faster, faster, and faster and ere long were passing the multitude very rapidly. Still we rode on recklessly. Finally we came in sight of the US Land Office at the town site of Enid, our destination. We arrived in among say 30 people the first to get there. We had made a fine race and were proud of it. We had beat every thing there ex-Western [sic] horses. Kentucky and Missouri race horses not excepted. We made the 18 mile heat in 48 minutes. Not a bad saddle horse time and that too without hurting any of our five horses. I was No. 1 to file in the land office. It was an exciting trip and I enjoyed it very much. I went over the route the next day to get our wagon and other horses and could trace the route by dead horses broken buggies and wagons. Some of the prettiest horses I ever saw lay dead. Naturally run to death by not knowing how to ride them. Several people killed and several badly mashed up.

As ever your brother,
Newt

Source: Oklahoma Historical Society