

T-602

OTIS RUSSELL, OSAGE

INTERVIEWED BY: LEONARD MAKER

INTERVIEW DATE: MAY 14, 1969

TRANSCRIBED BY: VICKI DAVIS

TRANSCRIPTION CHECKED BY: NONA KERR

GENERAL SUBJECT: EARLY DAY HISTORY OF OSAGE TRIBE IN OKLAHOMA AND
FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

CONCERNING CLANS - NAMING MEMBERS OF FAMILY
MORE ABOUT NAMING MEMBERS OF FAMILY BY MEMBERS OF CLAN
MARRIAGE OUTSIDE OF TRIBE OR CLAN
OSAGE HISTORY - TRAVEL TO MEXICO - AZTEC INDIANS
EARLY DAYS BEFORE OSAGES HAD OIL MONEY
WILD GAME WAS PLENTIFUL
STRANGE FOODS FOR CHEYENNES
BEAVER IN EARLY DAYS
OUTLAWS IN EARLY DAYS - RIVER CROSSINGS
DOGS WERE USEFUL IN EARLY DAYS
YOUNG MEN WERE STRONG AND HEALTHY IN EARLY DAYS
OSAGES HAD DIFFERENCES WITH COMANCHES
GOVERNMENT GAVE RATIONS BUT DID NOT TEACH INDIANS NOT TO USE
THEM
LAND LOST BY MANIPULATION OF SURVEYORS - TREATIES
WHITE MAN DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THE INDIAN
MANY FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS
MORE ABOUT FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Otis Russell is in his late 80's. He lives in the Enterprise District between Fairfax and Hominy, Oklahoma on his original allotment. His first wife was Angela Peace, a full blood Osage from Fairfax. They had two daughters both of whom are deceased. He is a veteran of World War I and served overseas. He is now married to a Cherokee woman. Mr. Russell is the oldest living full blood Osage. He is very willing to talk about his past history and that of his people, their customs and ceremonies, but is difficult to understand due to his age and also a slight speech impediment.