

HENDRICK, C. A. (Chet)

INTERVIEW

#12396

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

12396

HENDRICK, C. A. (Chet) INTERVIEW.

Field Worker's name Charles H. Holt

This report made on (date) December 10, 1937.

1. Name C. A. (Chet) Hendrick

2. Post Office Address Hominy, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year 1881

5. Place of birth Kansas

6. Name of Father Rufus L. Hendrick Place of birth Indiana

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Emma Dart 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 3.

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An Interview with Mr. C. A. Hendrick, Hominy, Oklahoma.
By - Charles H. Holt, Investigator.
December 10, 1937.

C. A. (Chet) Hendrick was born in Chautauqua County, Kansas, in 1881, and in 1893 the family decided to move to the Indian Territory. As the father and Chet had made several trips into the Territory, they believed it was better in every way to prosper than in Kansas.

The father had acquired a claim near Osage City in Pawnee, but traded it for cattle when he moved the family down. He traded the claim to his brother Frank, and it is still owned by his heirs.

The trip from Kansas was made in three wagons; one was loaded with the house-hold goods, one with farming tools and Chet drove the third wagon which was loaded with chickens, double decked.

After trading the claim a place was rented from Ben Wheeler in Osage County, just opposite across the river from Osage City. The place had a three room house on it; the house was a box house built by the Government, as the place was Indian land. There were

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only six acres broke on the place. Rental for the land was paid for by an agreement to fence, clear up land and break it. The land was adapted to corn, so they raised many hogs and cattle, feeding the corn to them, also; there was open range and in that locality the range was extra good. Of course most of the pasture land was already leased to cattle men, but no complaint was heard from the cattle men of the Hendrick stock ranging on it. The Hendricks even cut hay in large quantities over the cattlemens' range land and stacked it, and put fences around stacks and the cattlemen would buy it in the winter time for their cattle. It was easily fed the cattle. They would just take the fence from around the hay and let the cattle feed from the stack.

They did most of their marketing at Red Rock, and the hogs were sometimes driven to market as were the cattle.

They raised and stored most everything for food. Irish and sweet potatoes were raised and stored in

larger quantities than just for the family, and were sold in the winter and spring for much more than they would have brought at harvest time.

Wild game, such as deer, turkey and prairie chicken, were more plentiful in that locality than in most any other as it was not settled up so much, so they had wild game when they wanted it.

Chet enjoyed hunting, and one time he saw a herd of deer cross the road and there were so many he could not count them, but he managed to kill five of them before they got away.

There was no school near enough for the children to attend for three or four years, then one was built across the river at Osage City.

The boys made extra money breaking ponies for the Osage Indians; also trapping fur bearing animals was quite profitable to them.

The Singer sewing machine that the family brought from Kansas is still in use by one of the children.