

DAVIS, HOMER C.

INTERVIEW

10107.

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DAVIS, HOMER C.

INTERVIEW  
BIOGRAPHY FORM

Form A-(S-149) #10107  
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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Maurice R. Anderson

This report made on (date) February 25, 1938 1938

1. Name Mr. Homer C. Davis

2. Post Office Address Pauls Valley, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 8 Year 1879

5. Place of birth Texas

6. Name of Father J. L. Davis Place of birth Missouri.

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother Mildred Melton Place of birth Missouri.

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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Investigator  
Maurice R. Anderson  
February 25, 1938

Interview with Homer C. Davis,  
Pauls Valley, Oklahoma

I was born in 1879, in Texas and came to the Indian Territory in 1895, with Father and Mother. We settled on a farm in the Chickasaw Nation, near Elmore.

Pauls Valley was where my father brought his cotton to have it ginned and the old grist mill east of Pauls Valley was where he would have to bring corn to have it ground.

At that time there were only two stores at Elmore. Mr. Jim Gibson owned one of the stores; he later established the first bank at Elmore. The country then was very thinly settled around Elmore, people living around there farmed and raised cattle. There were no fences; it was open range and cattle could graze anywhere. We had four head of mules and three good milk cows when we moved to the Indian Territory. My father had been farming near Gainesville, Texas, before we moved to the Indian Territory.

There were plenty of turkeys in the part of the country where we settled at that time. I have seen as high as fifty

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in a bunch and the prairies were covered with cattle. My father raised cattle and would buy cattle and fatten them and then bring them to Pauls Valley and sell them to some bigger cattleman. A Mr. Byars at Pauls Valley was a large cattle owner and Mr. Sam Garvin owned a large ranch west of Pauls Valley. There were no large ranches around where we settled; what few people lived there then were farmers, but raised some cattle. People then tried to raise what they had to live on. My father would only make about two trips a year to Gainesville, Texas, for what things we had to have. The first year we farmed he hauled his cotton to Gainesville to market, but after that he always sold it at Pauls Valley. I have helped him haul many a wagon load of corn to Pauls Valley. The cattlemen here then would buy all the corn anyone had to sell. Everything was cheap in those days. Corn worth about fifteen cents a bushel and cotton would only bring about \$25.00 a bale. I guess everybody settling in this country in the early days made a good living. There was plenty of wild game and there was no cause for anyone to go hungry. You could raise from fifty to one hundred bushels of corn to the acre and not half farm it. We didn't have but one turning

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plow and a Georgia stock to farm with when we settled here, and Mother and I dropped the corn by hand. We moved back to Texas in 1904. I now live in Pauls Valley.