

T-601

OTIS RUSSELL, OSAGE

INTERVIEWED BY: LEONARD MAKER

INTERVIEW DATE: MAY 14, 1969

TRANSCRIBED BY: VICKI DAVIS

TRANSCRIPTION CHECKED BY: NONA KERR

GENERAL SUBJECT: OSAGE CLANS AND MEANING; MISCELLANEOUS STORIES AND SUBJECTS; SOME LIFE HISTORY MATERIALS; WEDDING CEREMONIES

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

INFORMATION CONCERNING CLANS - THERE ARE MANY ORIGINAL OSAGES - SKEPTICAL MORE ABOUT CLANS - LEADERS CLAN LAWS - MARRIAGE CEREMONIES
• MANY CLANS - DIFFERENT LAWS FOR EACH ONE OSAGE LEADER OVER ALL CLANS - CHIEF OSAGES CAME TO OKLAHOMA FROM KANSAS AND MISSOURI MR. BLACKBIRD SERVED IN UNION ARMY KIWAS AND COMANCHES HAD A BATTLE NEAR HOBART MANY BUFFALO IN DAYS BEFORE SURVEYORS CAME SEVERAL INDIAN TRIBES CAME TO OKLAHOMA ABOUT THE SAME TIME CONCERNING LANGUAGE - DANCE CEREMONIES OSAGE DANCES ARE SACRED SEVERAL STORIES HANDED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION BURIAL CUSTOMS IN EARLY DAYS NO DOCTORS IN EARLY DAYS - HOME REMEDIES MORE ABOUT CLANS - FAMILY TREE - MARRIAGES

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.