

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.