

OSGAN, SCOTT. ; INTERVIEW

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

Field Worker's name Thad Smith Jr.

This report made on (date) 9-17 1937

1. Name Scott Organ

2. Post Office Address Chickasha

3. Residence address (or location) 1117 So. Henderson Street

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 25 Year 1852

5. Place of birth Williamson County, Texas

6. Name of Father Joe Organ Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about father Buried in Tennessee

7. Name of Mother Matilda Organ Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about mother Buried in Texas

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 _____.

Interview with Scott Organ
Chickasha, Oklahoma.

I made my first trip through the Indian Territory in 1877.

I was working on a big cattle ranch in Texas. My boss sold one hundred and ninety head of horses to a man in Idaho, to be delivered. Five other men and I drove the horses across the Indian Territory in the Spring.

We forded Red River at what was called Red River station and continued on north on the old Chisholm Trail.

We had a chuck wagon with us and we drove the horses slowly, making about twenty five miles a day, so as to have the horses in good shape when we arrived at the shipping point, which was Cheyenne, Wyoming.

At night we hobbled and belled the horses which we knew would want to go back and two men were on guard during the night, each man taking his turn.

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We saw lots of deer, wild turkey, prairie chickens, quail and a few buffalo, on our way through the Territory.

We came up the trail a few miles east of where Duncan is now located and crossed the Washita River at what was called the rock crossing, about ten miles southeast of Chickasha, went on north and crossed the Canadian River, somewhere close to where Minco is now located. Near the crossing on the Canadian River is where we saw the buffalo gathered around a natural lake, watering.

We drove the horses all the way across the Territory without speaking to but one man. He looked like about one half Indian and asked us when the trail herds, bound for Kansas, would be through. It was the latter part of March when we crossed the Indian Territory.

In some places on the flats near the river, the grass was as high as a man's head sitting on a horse. Underneath the old grass, there was young, tender green grass the year around.

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I saw lots of wild ponies as we were crossing the Territory and all of them had wintered good and were in fine shape.

In 1900, I came back to the Territory from Texas with a large herd of cattle belonging to Bill Stone. The cattle were shipped to Duncan, where we unloaded them and drove them to Mr. Stone's ranch, twenty two miles east of there, on Bear Creek, in the Chickasaw Nation

I hired to Mr. Stone to do the cooking for his cowboys. The most of the time there were between fifteen and twenty men at the ranch headquarters to cook for. The main articles of food which I cooked were beef, bacon, beans and cornbread. We always had coffee and sorghum molasses.

Mr. Stone had a big pack of hound dogs, which he liked to hunt with. In the latter part of 1901, Mr. Stone and his dogs were chasing some coyotes. Mr. Stone was riding a good, fast horse, and when he came to some timber, he never slacked his pace, but reined his horse to go on one side of the tree.

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He dodged and went on the other side but the tree caught him and knocked him off his horse. He didn't die instantly but died later. Mr. Stone was a mighty fine man.

While I was on Mr. Stone's ranch I learned that live oak bark tea was a good simple remedy to check the bowels.

We had a good many horses on Mr. Stone's ranch that had the lambers. Their gums were swollen so, that it was difficult for them to eat. The remedy we used on those horses, after prying their mouth open, was to take a red hot iron and burn their gums. This remedy was very effective.

When the Caddo, Kiowa and Comanche country was opened, I registered for the Drawing, but failed to draw a claim.

About eight or ten miles east of Bill Stone's ranch, on Wild Cree Creek, there were lots of negro families. They farmed mostly cotton and corn, and got along fine, as they had their own church house and school house.

Since 1902, I have just worked at odd jobs, in town such as mowing lawns and washing dishes at hotels and have lived here continuously since then.

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