

PANKRATZ, ISAAC.

INTERVIEW

#8576

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

PANKRATZ, ISAAC. INTERVIEW.

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Field Worker's name Ida B. Lankford

This report made on (date) September 20, 1937

1. Name Isaac Pankratz

2. Post Office Address Cordell, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) Route 1

4. DATE OF BIRTH: nth August Day 3 Year 1876

5. Place of birth Lans Crown, Russia

6. Name of Father Peter Pankratz Place of birth Russia

Other information about father Preacher

7. Name of Mother Elizabeth Marton Place of birth Russia

Other information about mother Housewife

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

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Ida B. Lankford,  
Interviewer,  
September 20, 1937.

An Interview with Mr. Isaac Pankratz,  
R.R.1, Cordell, Oklahoma.

I came from Newton, Kansas, to Cordell, Washita County, August 10, 1892. My father filed on land, three miles east and three miles north of Cordell.

Our first house was a tent and later we built a sod house.

We sodded our land down with kaffir corn and corn and also put in some wheat but not very much for the first few years. We hauled our kaffir corn to El Reno and got 15 cents a bushel, wheat was 40 cents a bushel; we got 3 cents a pound for hogs killed and dressed and would have to pay 60 cents for a large sack of flour. We could get a good pair of overalls for 50 cents and a pair of shoes for 75 cents, and we wore our shoes only when there was snow on the ground.

We went to school at Skelly in a sod house that Mr. Seger built for the Indians. Later Mr. Seger built a large school at Colony for the Indians.

The Indians were our friends and the best friends we had. When they wanted something to eat, I never turned them

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down. The Indian men would never work, except to ride a horse somewhere to get something, for the Indian men loved to ride, they would ride any kind of a horse it made no difference how wild or tame the horses were.

The Indian squaws would have to cut the wood and do everything else that was to be done.

Mr. Seger did a great work for the Indians and helped to teach and educate them in the right way of living.

Mr. Seger was a smart man; he found the spring on my father's place that was mineral water and people would come from far and near to drink this water. Mr. Seger did love to come with large crowds to use the water from the well.

I am sending you a formula of this mineral water together with some testimonials as to its value.

I remember many times that we folks would not have anything to eat, so etimes we would have to live only on kaffir corn bread. There were quite a few folks who had to leave their claims because they could not get

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enough to eat. We surely had hard times then; my father was a preacher and would give food to other people just as long as we had a bite to eat.

We freighted some from El Reno for Mr. H. D. Young who managed a grocery store at old Cordell. I had a wagon with four oxen and I would put flour on the wagon as high as we could get it and when we would get to the South Canadian River, it would be "up" and we would have to unload the flour, carry it on our backs across the river, and drive the oxen across, then reload the flour on the wagon. That is the way we would pay for our groceries; there were thirteen of us in our family and it took lots to feed us.

The roads were just trails and the only stop we had between old Cordell and El Reno was "Old Stage Camp" about forty miles from old Cordell. Many times we would be threatened by wild beasts such as lions and bears; there were many of them in "Devils Canyon" and they would make our oxen break loose but when a man would fire a gun the wild beasts would run away. While on our freighting trips sometimes there would be some of the worst blizzards and

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and we would almost freeze in our camps.

I have seen snakes on Washita River fifteen feet long and how they would rattle when a person would get close to them. The snakes then were nearly all rattle-snakes with just a few of other kinds.

When prairie fires would break out, we would fight the fires; the Indians always said "Don't run from the fire, run through it, because there is no horse that could outrun a prairie fire." The homes would burn and everything else people had and people would get on their horses and ride to different places, trying to warn others but sometimes the fire would beat them.

Those were awful times but I wish I could live those days over again and help build up another country and

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I am really proud of old Washita County, that I helped to build.

We had school for three months and some of the teachers could hardly read or write, now we have fine schools, school buildings and good teachers.

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I want to tell you of the big fish fries we would have. A crowd of us, sometimes fifteen or twenty families would gather and go to the Washita River and would get the Indians to let us seine in the river near their land. We would sometimes get a wagon load of fish and we would divide the fish with the Indians and sometimes we would take our bread, grease and skillets and fry our fish on the river, then would ask the Indians to eat with us. This would please the Indians and in this way we would make friends with them.

The Indians then wore their hair long and wore blankets but after the experiences with Mr. Seger the Indians dressed like we white people did.

I well remember when my father and mother came with all of us children, a family of thirteen, from Russia to Newton, Kansas, then to Washita County. Not one of could speak English, and we had a time learning. My father had to learn English first as he had to freight for H. D. Young so we boys helped him.

When we came here Cloud Chief was the county seat of

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Washita County and they had a cottonwood courthouse and later it was moved to Cordell and then the town began to grow and build. H.D. Young had a store, Dave Smith put in a store, a wagon yard went in and nine saloons were built and things picked up. People began to plant more wheat and cotton; at the opening of the Strip folks didn't think cotton would grow in Oklahoma. When we raised cotton we would haul it to El Reno or Vernon, Texas, to have it ginned and then we would sell it for 5 cents a pound. I have been gone as long as two weeks with a bale of cotton. Sometimes the rivers would be "up" and I could not get across or the old cold blizzards would blow so hard and the weather would be so cold that we would have to camp and build big log fires to keep from freezing to death.

Note; This is a copy of the pamphlet about the well: (verbatim)

This well promises to become one of the most noted in the United States, the Waters of which will cure Rheumatism, Kidney & Bladder Troubles, Liver Complaints, Nervousness, Filiousness, Loss of Appetite, Constipation, Chronic



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Disease etc. Following is the Analysis.

APPEARANCE: Colorless and very slightly turbid due to magnesium and sodium chloride, very slightly alkaline.

SOLUBILITY 0.0200 grams per liter, or 1.16 grains per. or 1.16 grains per gallon.

Total non-volatile solids 9274. parts per million.

Silica	244.	Iron & aluminium silicate	34.4
Iron and Alumina	100.	Bicarbonate of calcium	32.4
Calcium	821.6	Sulphate of calcium	2766 .2
Magnesium	220.	Sulphate of magnesium	572.2
Sodium	2151.8	Chloride of magnesium	414.7
Potassium	trace	Chloride of sodium	5462.3
Sulphates	2410.		
Chlorides	3620.	Total salts	9282.2
Bicarbonates	24.4		
Phosphates	trace		

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## REMARKS

This water to be classified according to the government method is a muriated and sulphated saline water. The characteristic substance present are the magnesium, the sodium, the chlorides and the sulphates. This water would be useful medicinally as a laxative and purgative. It would also be used to advantage in obesity, dropsy and in many cases of kidney diseases.

KANSAS CITY TESTING LABORATORY.

IF INTERESTED, WRITE TO THE PROPRIETOR, ISAAC PANKRATZ.  
CORDELL, OKLAHOMA.

3 miles east and 3 miles north of Cordell  
3 miles east and 4 miles south of Bessie

Water shipped to  
any part of United  
States.

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Drink daily from 5 to 10 glasses according to how it affects you. Take a glass warm before breakfast.