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

Field Worker's name Alson J. Chase

This report made on (date) April 14 1937

1. Name Robert Lee Irvin

2. Post Office Address Woodward, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 1709 South 6 street.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 6 Year 1869

5. Place of birth Giles County Tennessee

6. Name of Father Kit Irvin Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about father was a Confederate Soldier

7. Name of Mother Irene J. Davis Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about mother Jefferson Davis President

of the Confederate State, and he was my cousin.

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.

INTERVIEW WITH ROBERT LEE IRVIN.
WOODWARD, OKLAHOMA.

FIELD WORKER ALSON J. CHASE.
APRIL 14, 1937

EXPERIENCE AS AN EARLY DAY SETTLER.

In 1873 my parents moved from Giles County, Tennessee, to Montague County, Texas, and began to farm, raising cotton and corn. When I was sixteen years old I ran away from home, and came to the Indian Territory. This was in 1885. I rode a pony, which was all I had in the world.

The first night I stayed at the Old Spanish Fort on the Texas side of Red River. I had no money with which to cross on the ferry, so I waited until a man came with a team and wagon, and I rode on the ferry and crossed with him.

I then came north to a place called Suggs ranch and stayed all night there, and from there I rode on north and stayed at Joe Copeland's place, and from there I went further north until I came to Elm Springs, on the Washita River. I rode down this river bottom, which was beautiful with lots of Indian corn and cattle.

That evening I met my first Indian and I said "Hello John" and to my surprise he answered, "Good Evening Sir" in as good English as any white man could talk. About eleven

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o'clock that night I reached my brother's place. He was running a boarding house at Shawnee Town, on the South Canadian river.

In the fall and winter of 1885 I herded cattle for Garvin and Huntley on the Washita river bottom near Pauls Valley, and in October we started to full feed about 3000 head of Texas steers, which were from 4 to 6 years old. In the spring of 1886 we drove these cattle to Red Fork which is now a part of Tulsa, Okla. It was a very wet spring and we had to swim the cattle across all of the creeks and rivers, so we lost lots of cattle in swimming across these streams.

In 1887 I went to ~~No-Man's Land~~ and punched cattle there until fall, then returned to Tulsa where I worked on a ranch until 1889 when Old Oklahoma came in for settlement. I made the race on horse back with some other parties. I was too young to file. In 1891 I came to Woodward County and located at Fort Supply.

I bought cattle for the beef contractor. He had the contract for furnishing the beef for the Fort Supply soldiers. Colonel Bryan was the commanding officer at that time.

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I made the run in 1893, when the Cherokee Strip opened for settlement, from near Hennessey, Oklahoma, and staked a claim six miles southwest of Enid. I had this claim about eighteen months, then sold out and came back to Woodward County and again punched cattle.

In 1895 I married Carrie Reckstew and in 1898 I filed on 160 acres five miles south of Fort Supply on Wolf Creek, and lived there until 1919. By this time I had accumulated a 1400 acre ranch on Wolf Creek, and had it stocked with cattle. When I sold out I moved to the town of Woodward Oklahoma, where I still live.

In all of my rambling around I never had any trouble with the Indians; always found them very friendly.