

ROWLAN, JOSEPH

INTERVIEW

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BIOGRAPHY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Pearl E. Parker.

This report made on (date) June 10, 1937

1. Name Joseph Rowlan,

2. Post Office Address Cherokee, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 223 west 4th.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 22 Year 1862.

5. Place of birth Madison County, Iowa.

6. Name of Father William Rowlan Place of birth Ohio.

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Martha Hoblet. Place of birth x

Other information about mother _____

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 2.

Pearl E. Parker.
Field Worker.
June 10, 1937.

An Interview with Joseph Rowlan,
223 West 4th St., Cherokee, Okla.
About the Opening of the Cherokee
Strip and later Settlements.

I was born in Madison County, Iowa. Moved to
Kansas, Barton County, not far from Great Bend, Kansas,
which was the county seat, and I came to Oklahoma
September 16, 1893 and filed on a claim in Woods

County three miles east of Aline, Oklahoma. This
still exists as my homestead. I made the Run on
horse back, then I moved my family in a covered
wagon and forded the Salt Fork River. My house
was a two room sod house and we didn't have much
furniture. Just had a wood stove, and a wooden
bedstead. Our well was a drilled well.

Farming was done by a team of horses, and we
raised corn and kafir corn, also broom corn. My
stock consisted of two horses and one milk cow,
which I got after I came to Oklahoma. Our nearest
trading post, Cleo Springs, was about seven miles
away, and it still exists.

There were a few Indians, but I didn't have any
dealings with them to speak of. Hunting was a great
sport, and I killed lots of squirrels, quails and
wild deer.

I saw two desperadoes shot and brought into

Cleo Springs undertaking parlors. I brought a rifle to Oklahoma with me. I judge from what I can remember that it must be about sixty years old. It belonged to my parents, in Madison County, Iowa.

I can well remember the Union Baptist Church and also the Seven Day Adventist Church which was located just a few miles from us. The old sod school house most generally held the meetings at that place, and our music was composed of violins and an organ.

Our merchandise was transported by wagon from Alva, Oklahoma, which is now in Woods County.

The county in which I lived had mostly trails, and all roads were very poor. Our school was a sod building, and we had never more than six months terms.

My mother, Martha Hoblet owned a spinning wheel, on which she made us children's clothes.

The old Star mail route was the name of our route, and the mail was carried by wagons.

Some time after, in about two or three years we organized a lodge. It was the Odd Fellows Lodge.

I am now seventy-five years old and in fair health.