

SAGE, JOE

INTERVIEW.

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian History Project for Oklahoma

Name of informant Grace Kelly

Date of interview June 18 1987

1. Name Joe Sage

2. Address Hitchita, Oklahoma

3. Residence Two miles east and one south of Hitchita.

4. DATE OF BIRTH Month _____ Day _____ Year 1882

5. Place of birth Phillipsburg, Kansas.

6. Name of father John Sage Place of birth Iowa

7. Name of mother Jane Farmer Place of birth Missouri

Notes on this form are to be written on the reverse side of the form dealing with the life and story of the informant. The Manual for selected subjects is to be used as a guide and attached firmly to this form. 2

INTERVIEW WITH JOE SAGE
By
Grace Kelley, Field Worker

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PIONEER FARMERS

In 1893 a drouth came to Kansas and my father decided to come to the Indian Territory for better farming conditions. We did our shopping at Checotah, the stores there being owned by: Lafayette, Spaulding, Hutchison, Rufe Whaley, who had a Cherokee wife, and Knisley. There was a grist mill o.

There were a few houses here and there but not very many. There was too much wild game. Our fields were fenced with rail fences to keep the cattle out. Many nights the deer, or hogs would get in and eat our corn. And the coon and squirrel were almost as damaging to it. We would go out, you might say in the yard, and kill four or five for breakfast. That is one reason there isn't so much game now. If we didn't have to kill it for food we did to protect the corn fields. We didn't sell much but raised for our own consumption.

WHALEY'S FERRY

On Deep Fork River a quarter of a mile below the Ten Thousand Club bridge, which wasn't there then, the ranchers moved their cattle from one side of the river to the other for better pasture and when they were taking them to market.

This route was from Checotah to Morton's store, one mile south and one and a half east of Hitchita, over the hill at Hitchita and on to Okmulgee.

Morton's store was owned by a white man with an Indian wife, and there was a house, store and blacksmith shop. I don't know if there was a post office, but I suppose so.

HIGH SPRING

There is a hill north of Hitchita which used to be the old Indian Council Ground. A hole was dug or hollowed out of a steep well or bank and a spring was found, which is still there.

GOOD PECAN COUNTRY

Besides being a good farming country this has always been a good pecan country. They are worth about as much as anything that can be raised, both for food and to sell.