

SHEPARD, JOHN

INTERVIEW

8733

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

SHEPARD, JOHN.

INTERVIEW.

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Field Worker's name Ethel Mae YatesThis report made on (date) September 28, 19371. Name John Shepard2. Last Office Address Elk City3. Residence address (or location) Box 4124. DATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day 15 Year 18465. Place of birth Burnet County, Texas6. Name of Father J. Shepard Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Nancy Shepard Place of birth _____

Other information about mother _____

* Refer or comply to narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and work 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 _____.

Stetson, John.

Interview.

1902

Stetson, John
September 28, 1907
Interviewer.

Interview with John Stetson
Elk City, Box 111.

I was born in Farnham County, Texas, in 1870. My father was John Stetson and my mother was Eliza Ann Stetson. My father was a farmer and a stock raiser. I grew up on the farm and learned to work from an early age. I went to school in Farnham County, Texas, and graduated from the high school. I then went to work for the Stetson Cattle Company, where I stayed for several years. I then went to work for the Stetson Cattle Company in the Territory. I was there for a number of years and saw a lot of things. I remember the first time I saw a buffalo. It was in the Territory, near the mouth of the Red River. It was a very large animal and I was very impressed with it. I also remember the first time I saw a bison. It was in the Territory, near the mouth of the Red River. It was a very large animal and I was very impressed with it. I also remember the first time I saw a wild horse. It was in the Territory, near the mouth of the Red River. It was a very large animal and I was very impressed with it.

While at Bogg, some of the boys had a shooting scrape in which Jim Sullivan, one of our boys was wounded and

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Henry Lawrence got on his horse and left and we never did know whether he was hurt or not and we don't know whether Jim lived or died as we never did hear from him any more. We went on across the country and crossed the corner of Arkansas into Missouri.

I farmed in 1868 for my grandfather. In 1869 I made another drive for G. J. Mires; went the same route as before and used the same road brand. I made a drive every year until 1883 and always came across the Territory and I never did run across the Chisholm Trail, I always found a new road and when we came across a place that we couldn't get our cattle across we would stop and make away to get across.

I was coming through the Territory about the time the Cherokee Strip was open^{ed.} I had brought with me ninety head of horses, my two sons and a hired man of the name of Eply. We stopped and camped on Turkey Creek, lived in a tent and held my horses. Mr. Eply and I made the Run and put down our stakes but decided that we didn't want this land; it was not very good and didn't have any timber on it. A man told me about the Cheyenne and

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Arapaho country so later I came over into Dewey County, and filed on a claim which had plenty of timber on it. I went over in the mountains and got cedar logs and took them to a sawmill and had them planed down and I built the prettiest little two room log house and chinked it with gyp rock. I dug two wells and fenced my place and made good corrals. The first thing I did was to get some hogs. I lived on Gypsum Creek where there were turkey and deer and I saw one bear when I was crossing the creek; I saw him up in a hackberry tree eating hackberries; he jumped down and came running right toward me. He turned down the creek and climbed up in a cedar tree; I did not have my gun but I went back to the house and told about seeing the bear. There was snow on the ground and the next morning Mr. Lawrence Philips took his gun and tracked the bear to the tree and killed him. Mr. Philips had a bunch of cattle and one night one of his heifers failed to come in and the next morning they went to hunt for her and a cougar had her down and had eaten one of her hind legs off and she was still alive. Mr. Philips killed the cougar which weighed two hundred pounds. A little later Mr. Philips

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tracked another cougar up into the hills and killed him and that put a stop to that trouble.

I farmed and we had hard winters with heavy snows, and I raised fine crops. I have sold grain for 25 cents a bushel on time and have still gotten the time. A Mr. Chenworth would come through with cattle and pen them at my place as I had good lots. He took a liking to me and recommended me to the Talago and Woodward Commission Company and got me on the good side of them, so I borrowed money and went to buying and shipping cattle and soon had a herd of my own. I lived on my claim for ten years and then sold it and came over into Beckham County and I have been in and around Elk City ever since. I now live with my son Sidd Shepard out south of town. I will be ninety-one years old the fifteenth of November and am enjoying good health.