

JACKSON, JOHN ANDREW.

INFLUENCE, 4806

88

BIOGRAPHY FOR
FOREIGN PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Ethel B. Tackitt.

This report made on (date) June 16, 1937.

Lone Wolf, Kiowa County

1. Name John Andrew Jackson.

2. Post Office Address Mangum, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) South Oklahoma Ave.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 6 Year 1861

5. Place of birth. McNair County, Tennessee.

6. Name of Father Joseph Jackson Place of birth _____

Other information about father Pioneer to Arkansas &

7. Name of Mother Margarete A. (Cox) Jackson. Place of birth Texas.
Mississippi

Other information about mother Typical Pioneer 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 5.

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INTERVIEW.

4606.

Ethel B. Tackitt,
Interviewer,
June 16, 1937.

Interview with John Andrew Jackson.
Mangum, Oklahoma.
Born December 6, 1861.
Father-Joseph Jackson.
Mother-Margarete A. Cox Jackson.

I was born in Tennessee, December 12, 1861.

My parents, Joseph Jackson and Margarete Ann Cox Jackson, moved to Arkansas in an early day; 1875. We moved on to Texas where I lived until the year 1884.

I had gone into the cattle-raising business for myself and I needed more range, so I went up into the Indian Territory west of the site of the present town of Ardmore and leased some land, or rather I leased a pasture right from an Indian named Pike Harkman; I think he must have been a Chickasaw.

The country was open range and numbers of white people from Texas pastured their cattle in the Indian Territory, and by paying these Indians a small amount their friendship and protection were secured. The friendship and protection of the Indians were needed as there were many cattle thieves and

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horse thieves, who made a practice of driving off stock. These gangs were usually led by some renegade white man and as it was hard for the "Law" to get hands on these robbers; people had to protect themselves and their stock.

I got tired of the conditions in the Territory and went back to Texas on July 4, 1886. I crossed the Red River at Doan's Crossing and moved into Greer County which was called Texas then.

I followed the Mobeetie Trail and camped for a while at the Nine Mile Spring, so called as it is nine miles north of the crossing. Nine Mile Spring was a landmark as there was plenty of fine water there, and grass as well as some shade trees which were much appreciated for shelter from the sun which beamed down on the white needle grass with a reflection like water.

This needle grass came up early in the Spring and was fine grazing until it developed a head-like stem which ran up from six to ten inches. These heads, in

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place of developing into grain like oats or wheat, had silky plumes and these plumes were made up of numerous, three spray hairs like beards, held together at a center by a needle like point from one-half to an inch long. This needle grass would stick into clothing, bedding or saddle blankets and was just like so many needles. These needles were the big nuisance of a cowboy's life for when driven by the wind many cowboys suffered pierced eyes from them. Needle grass which became fastened in a cowboy's saddle blanket could also cause him to fall off his horse.

I moved on to the north and camped a while on Haystack Creek. There was plenty of water here but it was the strongest kind of gyp-water. There were lots of big cottonwood trees to camp under but not much wood for fire.

However, that was of small matter as there were plenty of buffalo and cow chips to build fires for cooking. The cow chips were gathered up and brought to the chuck wagon where the cook put them on the

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fire which was usually in a hole to keep the wind from blowing it over the prairie.

I drifted on north and finally settled on the North Fork of Red River near what is now the Delhi community, where I established a permanent ranch and home.

I lived at this ranch home until the latter part of the 1890's. When my children had begun to grow up, I moved my family to Mangum and went into the dry-goods and grocery business with Ashley Wilson and we continued to run a cowman's supply store, then a farmer's store and I raised stock on my ranch which I kept until recent years.

My brand was Z + and my partner in the cow business was Bill Hext; our range was between Haystack Creek and the North Fork of Red River and sometimes we grazed our stock on the north side of the river in the Cheyenne country.

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Haystack Creek gets its name from a small mountain that stands in the creek valley and resembles a large hay-stack. The Mountain slopes on all sides to the valley floor and at the top is a cap rock several feet thick and several hundred yards across, almost circular in form.

This mountain is twelve miles north and a few miles west of Mangum and can be seen for quite a distance.

It was a land mark for the early settlers.