

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

JANTZ, CORNELIUS J.

INTERVIEW

9776

Field Worker's name Raymond C. Jantz.

This report made on (date) January 24 1938

1. Name Cornelius J. Jantz,

2. Post Office Address Fert Cobb, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month June Day 1 Year 1891

5. Place of birth Kansas

6. Name of Father John B. Jantz Place of birth Russia

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth Russia

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 3.

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Raymond G. Jantz,
Investigator,
January 24, 1938.

An Interview with Mr. Cornelius J. Jantz,
Fort Cobb, Oklahoma.

I was born in Kansas, June 1, 1891, and my parents moved to the vicinity of Pauls Valley in the Spring of 1892. My parents were farmers and farmed around Pauls Valley.

My father was a threshing machine man and had a threshing machine at Pauls Valley. East of Pauls Valley on the Washita River was the only cotton gin in the country. There was a dam across the river and the gin was of the old type water mill. Our crops were corn, cotton and wheat.

In March, 1902, we moved to a farm eleven miles southwest of Fort Cobb and my parents still live on this farm.

Coming through the country in those days isn't like traveling of today. There were no roads, only trails to follow. To follow these trails you had to go away out of your way. We left Anadarko and headed southwest; we crossed the place that Ed. Maloncamp now owns. We had to

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keep to the ridges, which the trail follows. We passed close to the place where Broxton School District No. 68 now is and on southwest until we got to Cache Creek and from there we followed the creek west to where my parents are now located, one and one-half miles north of Cache Creek.

The first year my father plowed the sod and we children planted corn with a hatchet. This was done by sticking the hatchet into the ground and putting the corn in the hole left by the hatchet. After placing the corn in the hole we would step on it. The next year we got a hand planter. It was made similar to a post hole digger and had a quart grain box on the side. You would push it down into the ground and pull the handles apart and the grain would drop out, after which you would step on the hole to cover the grain.

We moved the threshing machine that we had at Pauls Valley up to our new home. The engine was a small 12 horse power steam type tractor. The separator was a Peerless brand, which didn't have either feeder or bind cutters on it. One man cut the binds, another fed the

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machine. There were no scales, so the grain had to be measured by hand with a half bushel measure. There was no blower, so men had to stack the threshed straw. Everything wasn't as modern those days as now. We used to have from sixty to seventy days threshing season where we have from ten to fifteen days now. This is because there are more machines and more modern equipment.