

HOFFMAN, O. C.

INTERVIEW

. 9206

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
 WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
 Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma
 HOFFMAN, O. C. INTERVIEW. 9206

Field Worker's name Thad Smith, Jr.

This report made on (date) November 5, 1937

1. Name O. C. Hoffman,

2. Post Office Address Chickasha.

3. Residence address (or location) General Delivery

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month January Day 1, Year 1877

5. Place of birth Alabama

6. Name of Father James Hoffman Place of birth Alabama

Other information about father Lives at Tatum

7. Name of Mother Roxie Riley Place of birth Alabama

Other information about mother Buried at Chickasha, Oklahoma

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 _____.

Investigator, Thad Smith, Jr.,
November 5, 1937.

Interview with O. C. Hoffman,
Chickasha.

I came from Alabama and landed at Ardmore, Indian Territory, on January 5, 1895. I rode the mail hack to a little town, then called Elk, now Poolville.

At Elk I rented a farm and in the Spring I started farming. I planted cotton and corn with a one row walking planter and did my cultivating with a Georgia stock and double shovel. My land made a half bale of cotton to the acre, which I had ginned at Elk. E. I. Elk ran the gin. I sold some of the cotton to E. I. Elk and I sold some in Ardmore. I got eight and nine cents per pound for it.

My corn made from forty to fifty bushels to the acre. I sold the corn to J. D. Suggs, a big rancher. I got seven cents per bushel for the corn delivered at a little place called Homer.

Our mail was brought daily from Ardmore in a hack. A man named Harmon kept the post office in Elk.

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There were lots of deer, prairie chickens, wild turkeys, squirrels, and quail there. I have seen men come there with long nets and drive the quail into traps. They dressed the quail and shipped them to market. There were lots of coyotes and loafer wolves there. There was a five dollar bounty paid on a loafer wolf scalp by the big stockmen. I saw two buffaloes while I was living there. They were traveling west. *

There were lots of Indians living around Elk. Some of them lived in log houses that were chinked with mud. The roofs were covered with clapboards about eighteen inches long and seven or eight inches wide. A few of the Indians lived in sod houses. The sod was plowed and cut into blocks about twelve inches wide and as thick as the plow could plow and make them. All the houses had fireplaces in one end of the house. The fireplaces were made of mud and sticks. The sticks held the mud or clay together.

In the Fall of the year the Indians would gather in a big bunch of cows and milk and make butter for Winter use. They would store the butter in a wooden bowl. In the Winter the Indians would cut ice on the lakes and

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rivers and store in a dugout, packed in straw. This ice was kept as nearly air-tight as possible, and it would last up until in the Summer.

Dr. Chapman and Dr. Taylor were our doctors at

~~Elk. Elk had a little box school house with homemade~~

benches that had a board nailed horizontally to the back.

This board was used to write on by the students sitting behind. The school was a subscription school.

~~I worked on J. D. Sugg's  (O H triangle)~~

ranch as a cowboy in 1897. We rounded up lots of fat cattle and horses and shipped them to market from Ardmore.

I learned to dry beef and deer meat from the Indians and I always dried some. When I would kill a beef in the Summer some of it would spoil before I could eat it so I dried what I couldn't eat before spoiling. I dried it by cutting it in long strips and hanging it in the sunshine for three or four days.

* Note: The buffalo were killed or driven out of Oklahoma in the 1870's, before the birth of Mr. Hoffman. There may be some explanation of his statement that he saw two buffalo travelling west after 1895 and the statement is retained for that reason.-Ed.