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Form A-(S-149)

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

Field Worker's name Ethel B. Tackitt.This report made on (date) August 13, 19371. Name Elias Elsworth Bay2. Post Office Address Lone Wolf, Kiowa County, Oklahoma.3. Residence address (or location) Lone Wolf, Kiowa County, Oklahoma.4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month October Day 23 Year 18775. Place of birth Franklin County, Missouri.6. Name of Father William Bay Place of birth MissouriOther information about father Union Soldier, Civil War.7. Name of Mother Plina Boyd Bay Place of birth MissouriOther information about mother Died when r. Bay was eleven years of age.

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.

J. S. Clark, Supervisor,  
Indian Pioneer History S-149  
Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Ethel B. Tackitt, Interviewer.

An interview with  
Elias Elsworth Bay,  
Lone Wolf, Oklahoma.

I was born in Franklin County, Missouri, October 23, 1877, and moved with my parents, William Bay and Plina Boyd Bay, and the family of my grandfather, Elias Boyd, mother's father, from Missouri to a place near the present town of Madill, in Marshall County, in 1886.

My father and grandfather leased land from Cliff Love, a Chickasaw Indian, who lived at Durant.

They cleared the land and built log houses. The shingles were bought at Oakland where there were two lumber mills at that time. One mill was operated by Ed Dillenger and the other by a man named Cornelison. The floors were hewn puncheons and the doors were also hewn out of logs with an adze.

There was nothing of the present town of Madill at that time; I remember that my grandfather killed a deer where the streets of Madill are now.

We farmed some and the produce which we did not use at home was hauled by wagon to Denison, Texas, and sold

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for money or traded for things we needed.

There were no worked roads, only a wagon track through swamps and brush and we crossed Red River on a ferry.

We did not have to work much as any thing we planted grew well and we could have all the turkey, deer meat or any other kind of meat we wanted by going to the woods and getting it. Grapes and plums grew wild as well as walnuts, hickory nuts and pecans.

We kept a pack of hounds and much of our time was spent in hunting panthers, wildcats, wolves, deer and bear. The hides of these animals were sold for money to men who went through the country buying them for the market.

Everybody rode horseback and followed trails through the woods.

There were numbers of wild horses in the country and it was quite common for tame horses belonging to settlers or to travelers through the country to get away and run off with these wild horses. It was almost impossible to find a horse, once it got with these wild horses so people would set a time and some one would locate the place where a band of these wild horses came to get water. There were several watering places on the Washita River but the one I especially remember was near

Tishomingo, now in Johnson County.

A great number of these horses were only little Spanish ponies but the strain of many were mixed with the strain of good horses which had run away and joined these wild horses.

After a water hole was located and it was learned how many horses were in the band, the men who were going to catch these wild horses would cut posts, rails and brush and build a trap . This trap was a pen with the opening toward the river with wings out on each side. This had to be far enough back from the water-hole so that the horses would not be frightened by it and stay away.

When the horses came to water, the men on horse-back would be ready to start them toward the open mouth of this snare. When the horses were inside the men would close it across the open side and each man would try to capture a horse by roping. The tame horses would usually stop and it would be easy to handle them, but the wild horses would fight as long as they were able.

Sometimes men would try to run these wild horses down. Numbers of riders would follow these wild horses and keep them on the move until they were tired down, when a new rider would take the place of the one with

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a tired horse. The strayed tame horses could be caught in this way for they would stop traveling when they grew tired and would allow themselves to be caught, the wild horses would run as long as they could.

I have lived in Oklahoma continuously since 1886, and during the past twenty-three years have lived in Kiowa County,

I have spent most of that time farming but it has not been profitable to me for the past few years.

I am now nearing my sixtieth year; fifty of them have been spent in Oklahoma.