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Field Worker: Gertie Goodfox
May 10, 1937

Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Gassert

BIOGRAPHY.

Charles, my husband was born September 28, 1857; I was born in 1866. We came from Indiana, went to Ashland, Clark County, Kansas, where we married, celebrating our Golden Wedding Anniversary December 22, 1937.

Charles left with my father, William Schwab, who was a union soldier, and came to old Oklahoma to make the run of '89. My father got his claim, but Mr. Gassert did not get any place as he didn't like any of them. Then in 1893, Mr. Gassert made the run in the "Strip". They were stationed at Arkansas City, for four days to register their names. He followed the crowd but did not stake a claim.

The first dollar Mr. Gassert made in the new country, new Oklahoma, was the day of the run. He was driving in his wagon, for the train that was taking the people from Arkansas City was loaded. They were to get off at Newkirk to stake their claims. The train stopped before it reached Newkirk; the people thought they had

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reached Newkirk, and rushed from the train, where Mr. Gassert was waiting in his wagon. He happened to have some kindling, and they rushed up to him and offered him a dollar a stick, as they were going to use this kindling to stake their claims. They cleaned him out of his kindling, but he was that much ahead in dollars.

In October Mr. Gassert went back to Kansas after us, our boy, Frank, and myself. We left the 18th day of October, 1893, with two covered wagons and a spring hack, also thirteen head of cattle and twelve head of horses. Mr. Gassert drove four teams to his covered wagon. Besides our provisions, we brought quite a bit of money, eighty dollars of it being in gold money, twenty dollar gold pieces. We reached Stillwater November 1, 1893. We stayed with my father awhile and then came to Pawnee.

We leased an Indian lease, the Jane Norman allotment, about thirteen miles southeast of Pawnee. We had to build a house and fence the place and pay sixty dollars a year. We built a small frame house on the place. Frank attended the Bryan school. We had a postoffice in the John Guyon home. Mrs. Guyon took care of the mail

for the neighbors, and she had a room right in her house that served as the postoffice. Mrs. Guynon was the daughter of Thomas Johnson, who was chairman of the First Board of County Commissioners.

In 1900 Mr. Gassert came to Pawnee and started to build our home, and that fall he hauled material for the construction of the Santa Fe Railroad.

Before we came to Pawnee, we moved to Morrison in 1898, and Mr. Gassert bought out Mr. Ed Colvin's general mercantile business and was in business two years there and then came to Pawnee.

Mr. Gassert had been farming all his life until he went into the mercantile business. We had our hardships trying to make our living. I took in sewing for the Indians, also sewed for some of the white people. I don't think I would like to live over those early days.
