

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

GEORGE, R. E. INTERVIEW.

9881.

Field Worker's name Maurice R. Anderson

This report made on (date) January 25, 1938 1938

1. Name R. E. George

2. Post Office Address Pauls Valley, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month June Day 3 Year 1870

5. Place of birth Texas

6. Name of Father D. C. George Place of birth Missouri

Other information about father Deceased

7. Name of Mother Mary Willis Place of birth Missouri

Other information about mother Deceased

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 2.

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Field Worker, Maurice R. Anderson,
January 25, 1938.

Interview with R. E. George,
Pauls Valley, Oklahoma.

I was born in 1870, in Texas, and came to the Indian Territory with my father to make the Run in 1889. We came from Texas in a wagon drawn by two mules.

Just before the Run started my father unhooked one of the mules and rode it; we had intended to make the Run in our wagon but Father decided we wouldn't get any place in a wagon. The run was made some time in April, and at twelve o'clock noon there were people from nearly every place it seemed; they were in buggies, hacks, wagons, horseback and on foot.

My father staked a claim but sold it to another man and without filing on it, we started back to Texas. On our way back we met a man at Wynnewood and Father leased some farming land from him; this man had

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owned the first store in Wynnewood in 1887 and before moving his store to Wynnewood he owned the store at Cherokee Town.

We crossed the river at Cherokee Town on our way to make the Run and when we came back there wasn't anything to speak of at Cherokee Town. The railroad which had been built through this country in 1887 had missed Cherokee Town and the town of Wynnewood had been started, then Cherokee Town was moved to Wynnewood, which was only a few miles south of Cherokee Town.

Not any of this land that Father leased from Mr. Walner was in cultivation; Father got all he raised from this land for five years for clearing it up and putting it in cultivation. There was no house on the land, we lived in a dugout the first two years we were here. After making a deal for the land we went to Texas and moved what things we had to Wynnewood. Mother and sister stayed at Mr. W. M. Rays' home until we finished our half-dugout, which took us only about a week to dig, and build what was to be our home, with the help of two

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negro men living in that part of the country.

There were not very many white people living there at that time, but there ~~were~~ quite a number of negroes.

The first year we only cleared up about ten acres for corn. There was plenty of wild game then and we raised quite a number of cattle. While we lived there, a negro named Dixie Smith traded my father five yearlings for a mule; that was how we came to start dealing in cattle.

It was in 1893 that we raised our first large crop of cotton; we made twelve bales of cotton and only had in twenty acres.

In 1895 Dixie Smith and a few other negroes built a negro school, the first negro school in that part of the country. My father helped work on this school building and was paid by Dixie Smith.

We moved back to Texas in 1897 and my father and mother died in Texas. I came back to Oklahoma in 1916 and have lived here since.