

INDEX CARDS

No Man's Land
Ranching--No Man's Land
Weather
Stage Routes
Fort Supply

- 3 -

Form A-(S-149)

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

Field Worker's name Alson J. ChaseThis report made on (date) April 6 19371. Name Joseph C. Mason2. Post Office Address Supply, Oklahoma3. Residence address (or location) ½ mi. south, 2½ mi. west of Supply, Okla.4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 23 18845. Place of birth Fort Supply, Oklahoma6. Name of Father Joseph E. Mason Place of birth England

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Lizzie Mason Place of birth San Antonio, Texas.

Other information about mother _____

Notes or complete narrative by the interviewer 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 pages, 3 copies each.

Interview with Joseph C. Mason
Supply, Oklahoma
April 6, 1937.

My father was Joseph E. Mason, a civil war veteran. He was born in England. He came to No Man's Land from Dodge City, Kansas, in 1872 and located about five or six miles south of the present town of Gate, Oklahoma, which is at this time in Beaver County, on the Beaver River.

There he went into the cattle business with John Over and J. E. McKenney. They accumulated about 7000 head of cattle, and on January 7th 1886, they had one of the worst blizzards in the history of this country and most of their cattle froze to death. But they managed to stay in the cattle business until 1889 when my father died. This storm lasted about 48 hours and when the skies cleared, and the weather moderated, so people could get out to see about their stock, they found that their cattle had drifted with the storm into canyons and up against drift fences and they found many cattle frozen to death standing up. In those days the cattlemen did not prepare for bad storms by putting up feed and having cotton seed cake as they do nowadays. They depended on winter grass altogether.

- 2 -

At one time my father had a stage coach ranch contract with the Government at Fort Supply. He had to furnish and provide a place where the different stage lines could get their meals and sleep and a place to care for their horses.

My father died in 1889 and was buried at Fort Supply and in 1894 the Government moved all the soldiers who were buried there to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, so my father and also a sister were moved there.

My mother was born in San Antonio, Texas, in 1868. Soon after her birth, her parents went to Dodge City, Kansas, overland, and stayed there until 1872, when they moved to Fort Supply. Here she met my father and they were married. My mother continued to live at Fort Supply and later at Supply, Oklahoma, until her death in 1934. She is buried in the Supply Cemetery.

I was born August 23, 1884 at Fort Supply, Oklahoma. I was five years old when my father died, and it was up to me to provide a living for myself and mother, which at that time was very difficult. I tried to follow my father's profession, the cattle business and I have punched cattle all of my life. I am of the opinion that I know as many different cattle brands as any man in this part of the country. I am at present on a small farm 3 miles southwest of the town of Tuppy. I am still handling a few cattle.