

LEWIS, ED. A.

INTERVIEW

12801

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

LEWIS, ED. A.

INTERVIEW

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Field Worker's name Charles H. Holt.

This report made on (date) January 19, 1938.

1. Name Ed. A. Lewis

2. Post Office Address Cleveland

3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_

4. DATE OF BIRTH:    nth \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year 1876

5. Place of birth Kansas

6. Name of Father R. C. Lewis                      Place of birth Illinois

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother Susan Gibson                      Place of birth Illinois

Other information about mother \_\_\_\_\_

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.

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Charles H. Holt,  
Investigator,  
January 19, 1938.

An Interview with Mr. Ed. A. Lewis,  
Cleveland, Oklahoma.

Ed. A. Lewis was born in Kansas in 1876 and when he was fourteen years old he came to the Territory. His first job was that of a Jockey, riding race horses for Jess Lawson. He had almost grown up on a horse in Kansas, and his small stature, and the fact that he weighed only about a hundred pounds, made him a fine jockey. He rode for Lawson about two years, riding at numerous places in the northeast part of the Territory and in Southern Kansas.

Ed Lewis was at Pawhuska a greater part of the time in his riding career, and while at Pawhuska he got a job driving a stage in the Osage. The Indians were very fond of horse racing, and liked Ed Lewis very much as a jockey, naming him Ki-wa Ki-he-kah, meaning "Horse Chief" in English, so when he took the stage driving job from Elgin down through the Osage the Indians who had known him as a jockey continued to call him Ki-wa Ki-He-Kah.

He drove four horses to the stage hauling passengers, mail, and small freight or express packages. After driving

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the stage until 1894. Ed Lewis then went to Cleveland and contested an eighty acre claim which a negro had settled on. He was successful in the contest. The eighty acre claim was five and a half miles southeast of Cleveland. There was only a small patch broken on the place. There was no house on the place, so Mr. Lewis and his wife built a small box house, and later traded logs, to a sawmill for enough lumber to build additional rooms to the small house first built. He had no horses to break his land with, so he traded his work to neighbors who in return broke his land. In this way he raised a nice crop the first year, but the second year he bought stock, two horses and farming tools, a breaking plow, a Georgia stock and a small harrow to run his place, and cotton and corn were mostly raised. He had no planter but would borrow one from one of the neighbors when he could. Some of the corn was planted by hand using a hoe to cover it but after two or three years hard work on the place and with his wife helping most of the time with the farm work, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis were able to buy all necessary stock and tools to

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operate the farm.

There was no school in the neighborhood at first, but soon one was built of logs one mile west of the Lewis farm. They named it Pleasant Ridge School but it was used as the church also, and for community gatherings in general. The first teacher was Julia Rogers, now Sam Byran's wife, and Emery Shipman preached at the schoolhouse first.

The Deputy United States Marshals were Charles Lamb and Charles Marks.

In the early oil boom around Cleveland three producing wells were drilled on the Lewis eighty , of which one well is still producing and Mr. Lewis still owns the eighty acres.