

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

MEEHAN, HARRY

INTERVIEW

4245

Field Worker's name Ethel Mae Yates,

This report made on (date) May 31, 1937

1. Name Harry Meehan,

2. Post Office Address Elk City, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Route 2.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month October 16 Day 16 Year 1866

5. Place of birth Dover, New Hampshire,

6. Name of Father John Meehan Place of birth Ireland

Other information about father Died when I was 2 years old.

7. Name of Mother Katherine Place of birth Ireland

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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Ethel Mae Yates,
Field Worker,
May 31, 1937.

an Interview with Mr. Harry Meehan,

Route 2,
Elk City, Oklahoma.

In 1886, I came through the Indian Territory on the Chisholm Trail, crossing Red River at Doak's Store. We had to ford the river as there were no ferries at that time. We were driving cattle, usually driving twenty-five hundred head in a herd.

As we came through, we came among the Comanche, Cheyenne, and Pawnee Indians. We did not have any trouble with the Comanches, as we gave them meat. However, we did have some trouble with the Cheyennes, as they came out with their dogs and dogged our cattle, scattering them all over the country. They then wanted us to give them meat. Mr. E. D. Depee, who was trail boss at that time, refused to give it to them, so they held us three days. They went into the herd and were driving out the largest steer we had when Mr. Depee told the boys to saddle the best horse he had, "as I might

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have to kill me an Indian." Just as the old Chief was coming out with the steer, Mr. Depee stuck a gun between his eyes; whereupon, another Indian stuck a gun in Mr. Depee's ribs. At this time another herd boss came up and told Mr. Depee to give it to them and he and his crew would pay for it in order to keep peace. The Government was supposed to protect the whites but protected the Indians most. Mr. Depee knew if he killed an Indian he would have the Government and Indians both to fight and he intended to turn everything over to them and make for the Texas line.

This was summer when we came through the Territory and we suffered great loss of cattle with fever. The Pawnees would go out and skin these cattle that died with fever and cook them for food.

Another experience we had while we were on this trip: We were back-tracking to gather up lost cattle and the first night we camped down in a hollow. We took our horses out on a knoll to graze, leaving our saddles and grub at the camp. We supposed that someone must have been watching

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for when we went back, our meat, bread, and coffee were gone. When we slept, we would lay our pallets on the ground around the wagons and two men would stand guard while the rest slept but if it was rainy, we all stood guard.

After our food was stolen, we went two days without anything to eat. On the third day we met another crew, and they divided their food with us.