

WA-KA-QUAH, JOHN

INTERVIEW

9889

123

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

Field Worker's name Ophelia D. Vestal

This report made on (date) February 3, 1938

1. Name John Wa-Kah-Quah. (A Council Indian)
2. Post Office Address Faxon, Oklahoma.
3. Residence address (or location) (City)
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month Unknown Day Unknown Year Unknown
past 40 yrs
5. Place of birth Indiahoma, Oklahoma.

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____
 Other information about father _____
7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____
 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 2

WA-KA-QUAH, JOHN.

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Ophelia D. Vestal,
Investigator,
February 3, 1938.

Interview with John Wa-Ka-Quah,
Faxon, Oklahoma.

I have lived in Comanche County all my life. I was born near Indianola and have lived near Faxon about twenty years. I cannot remember anything of my parents. They died when I was very small. I lived with aunts and uncles.

A great thing that has helped me all through my life was that I learned to work when I was a boy. The older relatives would ask us to do little errands. My cousins would not do the tasks but would make me do it. When but a very young boy I worked at hay balers for 10 cents a day.

The older Indians taught the younger ones to live a true life. Be true to the Great Spirit which was the man above the sun. I was taught to always be kind to those that aid you and never take anything that doesn't belong to you. If a task is done, we owe it to the Great Spirit for enabling us to do the task. Always be kind to Father and Mother. Another thing, never make fun of any older

WA-KA-QUAH, JOHN.

INTERVIEW.

9889.

- 2 -

person, for we some day may be old and make the same mistakes as they make. Never gossip about our friends, always be peaceful and agreeable, never fight someone else's child; if he fights, get away, some older folks will protect you. This is the truth, and the way the Great Spirit meant for us to live. We must love our God.

The great warrior takes his bow and works with it for hours and hours, never calling it completed until it had a perfect spring. The bow and arrow has always been praised very highly, for with it the Indians have supplied their tables a long time. The bow is kept as a white man keeps his weapon. A bow is oiled with a fine grease and tested often. Many are kept handy at all times so if one failed others are ready.

The Indians are always taught to always take pride in whatever undertaking they might do, whether they liked it or not. If the task is started, stay with it until finished, then you will get full benefit; if you choose to be a sportsman, be a good one. Thinking things over, before jumping in, is the best policy. Smile big and walk away.

WA-KA-QUAH, JOHN.

INTERVIEW.

9889.

- 3 -

Up to this time, comes the white settlements. The Indians are used to outdoor life. We have four generations living among the Indians of today.