

CASTO, CHARLES EDWARD

INTERVIEW

#9098

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

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Field Worker's name Mildred B. McFarland

This report made on (date) October 28, 1937

1. Name Charles Edward Casto

2. Post Office Address Edmond, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 229 E. Campbell

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 24, Year 1868

5. Place of birth Caldwell, Kansas

6. Name of Father Henry R. Casto Place of birth W. Virginia

Other information about father Born, 1843

7. Name of Mother Annie Casto Place of birth Ohio

Other information about mother Born, 1851

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 _____.

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Interview with Charles Edward Casto,
Edmond, Oklahoma.

I lived on a farm with my parents just over the line in the Cherokee Nation.

I made the Run with my father in the opening of 1889. I was twenty-one years old then, but I did not stake a claim at that time. He placed his flag ten miles west of Edmond on Deer Creek.

On our journey here we crossed the Arkansas River near Tulsa. An Indian ran the ferry boat and he pushed it across with long poles.

We slept in the wagon with the wagon sheet covering us.

Our food was cooked on a fire, Indian fashion. We had brought a "Dutch Oven" with us in which to bake our bread. We placed it in the hot coals and covered it with more coals.

We drank water from the creek.

We lived in that fashion all summer. In the meantime we were digging a cellar, or dugout. When cold weather arrived our dugout was ready for occupancy.

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In May we had plented a small crop. We raised plenty of turnips and pumpkins. We lived on those and what wild game we could get until the next season.

In the early spring of 1890, we started to build a log cabin. We had spent the winter cutting and preparing the logs.

We did not have the chinking on the floor in when a heavy rain came and the creek bank over-flowed. It flooded the dugout where we were sleeping and there was a mad scramble for our clothing and bed-clothes. We moved into the log cabin in the middle of the night. We furnished our cabin with furniture we made ourselves from split logs.

People were always kind and thoughtful of one another in the early days. We would help each other with the crops, or in building a house.

The Indians were always friendly.

In 1885, my father and I freighted all through the country. At that time there was quite a flare-up among the Comanche Indians. They felt the government was not supplying them with enough rations.

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The Cheyenne Agency was located just across the river from Ft. Reno. General Philip Sheridan unloaded a regiment of soldiers at Caldwell, Kansas, and they marched all the way to Ft. Reno. They soon quieted the Indians and as far as I know that was the last trouble ever had with them.

While the troops were on this march they carried all guns and ammunition in one wagon and their rations in another. They were on the old Chisholm Trail, where it crosses the Cimarron River.

While crossing, the wagon carrying the guns was caught in the quicksand and lost; however, the teams were saved.

We owned three teams and two saddle horses and in the spring of 1886 we gave up the freighting business and started working on the Santa Fe Railroad. We worked at that until March of 1887.

The crew shot wild turkeys and deer for our meat, until a cattle rancher in the Cherokee Strip started selling beeves to the railroad company for the crews. This rancher's name was Oscar Halsell.