

CORCORAN, DANIEL.

INTERVIEW

10296

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

CORCORAN, DANIEL

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Field Worker's name Ida B. Lenkford

This report made on (date) March 22, 1938

1. Name Daniel Corcoran

2. Post Office Address Cordell, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) R. R. 2

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 13 Year 1862

5. Place of birth Alma, Illinois

6. Name of Father John Corcoran Place of birth Maryland

Other information about father Railroad man

7. Name of Mother Mary Marks Place of birth Maryland

Other information about mother Housewife

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 4.

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Ida B. Lankford,
Investigator,
March 22, 1938.

An Interview with Mr. Daniel Corcoran,
R. 2 , Cordell, Oklahoma.

I came from Mineral Wells, Texas, August 4, 1893,
to the Indian Territory; I came on a horse and filed
on one hundred and sixty acres of land.

I made a dugout and lived in it a long time. I
bought another horse and got a sod walking plow and
began breaking my land which I put in kaffir corn,
millet and Indian corn. The way I gathered the millet was
by getting down on my knees and pulling it, then I
stacked it.

The first year I was here I batched, then I met my
wife and we got married. The next year, which was part
of 1894 and 1895, I put in the same kind of a crop; my
wife and I pulled the millet and bought a cow. I plowed
with the sod plow and my wife planted the kaffir corn and
the Indian corn by hand.

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Later, I started raising cotton and would have to haul it to Vernon, Texas, to have it ginned and sell it for 7 cents a pound. It would take seven or eight days to make the trip for I would have to ford all the rivers and creeks as there were no bridges.

To get our fuel we would go to the rivers and creeks and be gone for a week at a time and haul wood back to our home. We also burned cotton seed and big ears of corn, for we could only get ten cents a bushel for corn.

The first year I was married, I had to go to Texas to get work to get enough money to make a crop as I had saved a little money, but didn't have enough. It took me nine days to make the trip.

The second crop of cotton I made I hauled it to Weatherford and got 4 cents a pound and each time I brought cotton to sell I would haul lumber back with me so I could build my little two-room house.

At this time I have a nice house, barn and windmill and I have never had a mortgage on my place but I have worked hard all my life.

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We had plenty of deer, quails and prairie chickens here when we first came. There were also many wild cats, polecats, rattlesnakes, fleas, mice and later we had bedbugs.

I have been married forty-three years and times have changed since the day I got married.

Before I married I had been batching in my dugout. I did my own washing and ironed the best I could and on Sunday morning, my wedding day, I began fixing up. I had a pair of pants my mother had made and I had a pair of brogan shoes which I had half-soled myself, so I got ready and away I went to the church which was ten miles away.

After we were married we got into the big wagon and away we went again to our dear little home- a dugout furnished with a home-made bedstead, a straw tick filled with straw for a mattress, two hand-made chairs, a fireplace to cook on, one skillet and lid, an iron pot to boil in, and a bucket to make coffee in.

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My wife cooked supper and how good it was. She made corn bread, put it in the skillet, put the lid on it, then I shoveled coals of fire on the lid and she fried eggs and made coffee. We both enjoyed that supper.

The next day we both went to work and we sure did work; we have had an awful hard time to hold our place and our home.

We had some of the worst blizzards those days and also the most awful storms and lots of people were killed.