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Field Worker: Maurice R. Anderson
 March 30, 1937

BIOGRAPHY OF Mr. Joe Davis (White)
 3 miles West of
 Pauls Valley, Oklahoma

BORN Alabama
 March 21, 1881

PARENTS Father, James Robert Davis, Alabama (deceased)
 Mother, Lillie Blackwell, Alabama (deceased)

Story told by Mr. Joe Davis, born March 21, 1881 in Alabama.

I came to the Indian Territory with my father and mother in 1892. I was eleven years old, we came through on the Santa Fe train from Texas to Pauls Valley, Indian Territory. On arriving at Pauls Valley, my father bought two horses and a wagon, we loaded up our household things, that my father had shipped through. I was not much, we had four chairs, table, home made bedstead and a few other household things.

My Father moved to Purdy, a little place about twenty-five miles southwest of Pauls Valley, there was a store, long school house, blacksmith shop and a grist mill. This mill was run by steam and owned by Mr. Hart. The blacksmith shop was owned by Jim Welch. I do not remember who owned the store.

I went to school at this log school house, a white woman was my teacher, I do not remember her name. My father had to pay her one dollar a month for me, us kids that went to this school did not have desks we used slates and sat on hued down logs for seats. I had a blue back speller and a reader. I think there was about 25 or 30 children went to this school, the year I went. I did not go

much the second term, only on days we could not work in the fields. I had to help my father on the farm.

My father had about one hundred acres leased, he raised lots of corn and cotton. He would haul that cotton to Pauls Valley on the Washita river. I believe this mill and gin was run by water power and I think it was in 1904 that this mill and gin went out of business.

There was lots of deer around Purdy, when we moved there. I have seen as high as fifteen deer in one drove, around the foot of the Table mountains, south of Purdy. Wild turkey's I have shelled corn and fed them. About a mile from our house was a big turkey roost, the would come around our corn crib early of a morning, we could have turkey anytime to eat if we wanted to. I have gone hunting and would not even shoot at a turkey. I like rabbits better, there were lots of coon, opossum and skunks around Purdy.

I have broke wild horse for my father when I was fourteen year old. Sunday, that was our "fun day". After Sunday School a group of boys that lived around Purdy, would meet at my home, nearly all owned saddle horses. We would go out on the prairie. There was not very many fences then. We would rope calves and have our own rodeo, riding these calves on Sundays was when I learned to ride. When I was at the age of fifteen, I was not afraid to try any wild brones or I did not care how big the steers were. We boys would make up five dollar purses for the best rider for that day. I have won several times.

My father raised some cattle and hogs but his main crop was corn. Corn was cheap then, I have seen my father sell corn for fifteen cents a bushel. My father sold about twenty acres of corn for ten cents a bushel in the field. I don't know how much corn the men he sold that year gathered, but we usually made forty to fifty bushels an acre.

I lived with my father and mother around Purdy, untill I was married in 1900. I married Miss. Sarah Malecoat, daughter of F. M. Malecoats, who was a big cattle man around Purdy, when my father moved there. My wife was born at Purdy, I do not know how long her people had been in the Indian Territory, before my father and mother came here.

After getting married I moved on a farm and went to farming for my self, in later years I have raised as high as seventy five bales of cotton a year.

My wife and I have reared ten children. I now live three miles west of Pauls Valley. I have lived around in what is now Garvin county for 45 years.
