

DAVIS, L. L.

INTERVIEW

#8286

300

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

Field Worker's name John F. Daugherty

This report made on (date) August 17, 1937

1. Name L. L. Davis

2. Post Office Address Sulphur, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 1220 W. Wynne Wood Avenue

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month October Day 26 Year 1876

5. Place of Birth Grayson County, Texas.

6. Name of Father Matt Davis Place of birth Kentucky

Other information about father Farmed

7. Name of Mother Mahala Boyeter. Place of birth Alabama

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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John F. Daugherty,
Interviewer.
August 17, 1937.

Interview with L. L. Davis
Sulphur, Oklahoma.
Born October 26, 1876.
Father-Matt Davis.
Mother- Mahala Boyeter.

I came to the Territory from Texas, with my parents, when I was eleven years old. We located at Willis Ferry in the Chickasaw Nation March 25, 1887. We lived in a log house with one door which swung on the outside when opened. Father paid his yearly permit of five dollars for grazing land to the Chickasaw Government. We traded at Denison because groceries were some cheaper there than on this side of the Red River.

In 1894 Father bought a place near Avoco (no longer in existence) north of the present site of Asher, on the South Canadian River. The man from whom he bought this place had staked the claim, and he became dissatisfied so he furnished a relinquishment and Father filed on the place in Guthrie.

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This place was almost four miles from the Corner saloon which was located on the north bank of the South Canadian River in Old Oklahoma, at the junction of the Seminole Nation on the east and the Chickasaw Nation on the south; this made it a rendezvous for the bad men of Old Oklahoma and of both the Seminole and Chickasaw Nations. There were many men killed at this Corner saloon.

We lived near Young's Crossing on the Canadian River. This river was treacherous to ford, but that was the only method of getting across it at this point. There was not enough water to run a ferry most of the time, and the quicksand was bad, especially after a rise. There was a man with a hack stationed at the crossing place who would pilot people across when the river bed was in a dangerous condition. This man charged from fifteen cents to a dollar a wagon, depending upon how dangerous the trip was. At night he had a lantern on each bank to guide him.

When the river bed was "quicky" it was like riding over rocks, and one dared not stop the team or

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down they went. When it was especially dangerous a man would ride a horse in front of the team, and two men would ride across on horseback, one at each side of the wagon.

I remember when a wagon, team and a family sank at Old Johnsonville in a "suck" hole when the river was up.

The first year we lived there we drove our cattle to the river for water.

One day one of the cows wandered over to a puddle of water and before she could get out, the water was all gone and she was rapidly sinking in the sand. She sank to her shoulders and we had to build a scaffold above her and dig her out.