



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

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DANSON, JOE E.

INTERVIEW

8321

Field Worker's name Ida A. MorvinThis report made on (date) August 23, 193

1. Name Joe E. Dawson
2. Post Office Address Sumner, Oklahoma.
3. Residence address (or location) P. O. Bldg., Sumner.
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month October Day 13 Year 1861
5. Place of birth Christian County, Kentucky.

6. Name of Father Thomas H. Dawson Place of birth Chris-  
tian County Kentucky.
7. Name of Mother Elizabeth (Dawson) Dawson Place of birth Christian  
County Kentucky.

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 sheets.

DAWSON, JOE E.

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Ida A. Morwin,  
Investigator,  
August 23, 1937.

Interview with Joe E. Dawson  
Sumner, Oklahoma.

I am the son of Thomas H. and Elizabeth Dawson,  
and I was born in Christian County, Kentucky, October  
13, 1861.

When I was nineteen years old I came to the Osage  
country and secured work with cattlemen. I worked as  
a cowboy and ranchman for Wade and Fugh, also for J. M.  
Carpenter; they had about three thousand head of cattle  
on their ranches.

After I was married I located on a farm which I  
rented from Jules Trumbley, an Osage Indian. This was  
located thirty miles due north of Pawhuska. The north  
boundary was the state line, and the nearest town was  
Elgin, Kansas, where I got my supplies and mail.

My crops on this farm consisted of kaffir, corn  
and oats.

In 1893 I entered the race for the opening of the  
Cherokee Strip, starting at a point on the north line  
near Chilocco.

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I made the race on horseback staking land in Kay County, one mile south and five east of the town of Kildare. I camped on the land that night, and soon afterward I built a box house fourteen feet square. My crops on this land were kaffir and corn for the first or seed crops, and later I raised wheat and oats. The prices for the crops were poor, but the prices on stock, such as cattle, hogs and horses were fair. I did not handle stock extensively, only as a farm needs.

After two years I sold my rights and opened a general store at Uncas and was appointed postmaster soon afterward. The mail to this office was brought by hack on the route from Kildare to the Kaw Agency until the railroad was built in 1901.

In 1900 I sold this store and my brother and I bought one in Noble County known as Sumner. This was located one mile south of the present location of Sumner in Noble County. After the building of the Frisco Railroad in 1903 this was moved to the railroad thereby making the present location of the town of Sumner. The post office was operated in this store and my brother

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Dawson was named as postmaster. The mail was delivered by a hack that made the Star Route from Perry to Pawnee.

In 1901 I sold out my interests to my brother and I located on a farm near Mountain Park in the Kiowa and Comanche country. I married while living there and we were the first couple to be married at Roosevelt.

Our home on this farm was a two-room frame house and my crops consisted of wheat, cotton, corn, kaffir and oats. The prices on farm products were fair. After three years I sold out and entered the mercantile business again; returning to Sumner I opened a hardware store which I sold in a short time and later opened a grocery store in Knid.

In 1915 I returned to Sumner buying a grocery store which I am still operating. My wife, Edith K. Dawson, was appointed postmistress here in 1920 and is still holding that position.