

DAVIS, SAMUEL J. (DR.)

INTERVIEW

10194

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

DAVIS, SAMUEL J. (DR.)

INTERVIEW.

10194.

Field Worker's name Ida B. Lankford.

This report made on (date) March 11, 1938. 1938

1. Name Dr. Samuel J. Davis.

2. Post Office Address Canute, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Rt #3.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month May Day 22 Year 1852.

5. Place of birth Gillmore County, Georgia.

6. Name of Father William H. Davis. Place of birth North Carolina.

Other information about father Farmer.

7. Name of Mother Sarah Ann Orsbon. Place of birth Georgia.

Other information about mother Housewife and a midwife.

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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Ida B. Lankford,
Investigator,
Mar. 11, 1938.

Interview With Samuel J. Davis.
Canute, Oklahoma.

I came from Greer County, Texas, June 2, 1898; we came in covered wagons. I filed on land at the place where I now live. I built a half dugout and my wife, and child and I moved in.

I practiced medicine and hired a man to break out my land, with a sod walking plow. We raised corn and kaffir corn for a few years, then we began to raise wheat, oats, and cotton.

As I was a doctor and there were no roads many times I would get lost and drive night and day. At nights, my

wife would light the lantern and hang it outside the door and that was my guide. When I would get in sight of the light I would drive the horses faster.

We had awful blizzards in those days and you could see them coming. One time I was called out on a case and when I started home I ran into a blizzard and I had to stop at a farm house to get warm, and when I started on my way

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again, the lady put lots of newspapers under my coat on my breast which protected me from the cold.

For game we had plenty of deer, quail and the prairie chickens were so plentiful that they would eat the grain. There were lots of wolves; they would kill my young calves and chickens. I traded my rifle for a twelve gauge shot gun which I still have and it is the one with which Mr. Duncan shot and killed many prairie chickens. He shipped these prairie chickens to St. Louis, Missouri, and got enough money to build himself a four roomed house.

We used to have lots of storms; big black clouds would roll up from the northwest, blow down houses and kill many people. One night I was called out to see a man with pneumonia and started back home and an electric storm came up, and from everything which I would touch about the buggy I would get a shock and I was driving a big span of mules and I could see the electricity over the backs of those mules so I got out and lay on the ground until the storm passed; there was no thunder, just lightning.

I had three good teams and I had them all driven down as there were so many sick folks and sometimes I would have to drive the farming mules.

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I had a pond put on my place, in which the water was about twelve feet deep. We had lots of hard times when we had hardly anything to eat or wear but we made out the best way we could in those days.

I practiced medicine for forty years and have been blind in both eyes now for six years. I had the best of eyes, didn't have to wear glasses and then cataracts and glaucoma came, I had my eyes operated on but they could not be saved. My youngest son and I live on the farm I filed on in 1898.