

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

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#9921

ROFF, R. B.

Field Worker's name Jasper H. Mead

This report made on (date) February 10, 1938

1. Name Mr. R. B. Eoff

2. Post Office Address Chickasha, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 728 Kansas Avenue.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 8 Year 1883

5. Place of birth State of Arkansas.

6. Name of Father R. B. Eoff Place of birth Arkansas

Other information about father Died at the age of 69

7. Name of Mother Alpha E. Pettyjohn Place of birth Arkansas

Other information about mother Age 71 years - still living.

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 _____.

KOFF, R. B.

INTERVIEW.

#9921

An Interview with R. B. Koff, Chickasha, Oklahoma.
By - Jasper H. Mead, Investigator.
February 10, 1938.

My name is R. B. Koff. I was born March 8th, 1885, in the state of Arkansas, fifty-four years ago. I came to the Territory when I was twenty years old and have lived here ever since.

The first place I landed when I came to the Indian Territory was at Wagoner, eighteen miles north of Muskogee. Wagoner, about thirty-five years ago, was a small place. It had about three thousand people and there were two or three blocks of asphalt pavement and the rest of the streets were of dirt. Wagoner had plank sidewalks which were made out of 1 X 12s - 1 X 4s and 2 X 4s and in several places where these different sidewalks would cross a creek or a low place they would have banisters on each side to prevent people from falling off.

There were two railroads which came through Wagoner, one running East and West, and the other running North and South.

The country around Wagoner was prairie land and had lots of blue stem grass on it. Doc Ruble had a big lease

and owned many cattle that roamed over this lease. The main water supply came from dug wells and springs and there was one artesian well at Wagoner that I knew of.

There were many Creek Indians located around Wagoner. I have seen several deer and wild hogs in the Verdigris bottom; hunting wild hogs is real sport but a wild hog will surely make you climb a tree.

The people on and around the Ruble lease "threw in" and built a school house. It was a one room frame box house about 20X36 and this school house was named after me, the Koff School House.

I have taught school for the biggest part of my life and have taught in several places. Cheesie McIntosh, a full blood Indian, signed my first certificate for me to teach school. I have lived in and around Chickasha for eleven years and as I said before I am a school teacher by trade and I do any kind of clerical work.