

JOSEPH. DAVID.

INTERVIEW

4823

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JOSEPH, DAVID.

INTERVIEW.
BIOGRAPHY FORM

#4823

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Ethel Mae Yates

This report made on (date) July 16, 1938

1. Name David Joseph

2. Post Office Address Elk City, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) Route 4, House Number 1020

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month April Day 11, Year 1864

5. Place of birth Indiana

6. Name of Father John F. Joseph Place of birth Indiana
Father died before we came to Indian Territory

7. Name of Mother Mary Joseph Place of birth Indiana

Other information about mother Came to Oklahoma and filed
on a claim.

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 4

Interview with David Joseph
Route 4, Elk City, Oklahoma

Interviewer - Ethel Mae Yates
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149
May 16, 1937

I came from Indiana to Missouri and went from there to Indian Territory to what was known as the Cherokee Strip. The morning before the Run there was hardly any one there and by night there were 10,000 people. They came in covered wagons, on horse back, in two wheeled carts and afoot, just any old way to get there. This was in the year of 1893. The next morning we were all lined up waiting for the signal. The wagons were all in a line and there wasn't room for a wagon between them. One man had a two wheeled hack with one horse hitched to it. The horse, being wild, got scared and made a run out on the strip but turned and came back. Some way he turned, the hack up on one wheel and made a run right between two wagons that I and one or two others were standing between but he didn't touch a thing. A brother of mine, two others and I made the run in a covered wagon. My brother got a claim but somehow I failed to get one so I bought a little place three miles east of Waukomis. We

did not come in covered wagons like most people did but on the train. We chartered a car and shipped our livestock, household goods and farming tools. We lived in a house in which one room was made of logs and one of sod. I farmed. Our trading post was a little country store of the name of Skeleton. There was a combination store and post office, run by a man named Altsler. We bought most of our supplies at Enid. There was a mill at Bison, twenty-five miles from where we lived. This was the only mill where we did not have to pay to get our meal and flour ground. They would take toll so I would take a wagon load of wheat at a time to have it ground. We lived there two years and then came to Roger Mills County, as there was no Beckham County then. We came in covered wagons. This was in the year of 1895. We drove our cattle through and when we got to Caddo County they were going to hold us for quarantine but we went around and came through Blaine County.

One night when we stopped for camp we put our cattle in a pasture, not knowing to whom it belonged. We were camped by a house and an Indian came over to get a lamp. His name was "Red Burr," and he was a Chief. He

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discovered the cattle and this being his land he began to get rough. The woman of the house told him that we were her friends and only going to stay for the night and to leave us alone so he did not give us any trouble and we came on and filed on a place five miles southwest of what is now Elk City. I dug a dugout and boxed it up with lumber and put a shingle roof on it. At one end I put some planks over head. The children could crawl up there and sleep but there was no room for them to play. I saved space another way by fastening a pair of bed springs to the wall with hinges. We let them down to make our bed on at night. In the day time they were raised up and fastened to the wall.

Our trading post and post office was in one little building known as the Crow Post Office but was later moved to Elk City.

When Elk City was founded it was known as Bush. The first building there was built of sheet iron and was called the Iron Clad Wagon Yard. It was owned by a Mr. W. R. Harris and is still standing close to the depot. A Mr. Harris, a Mr. Flenoy, and a Mr. White were

the first three men who lived in Elk City. When we came here it was a free range country. What little crops the people raised had to be fenced in and the stock ran outside. This soon led to confusion, the stock breaking in and destroying peoples' crops. A Mr. Johnson tried to get a herd law bill passed which later did go into effect. He was known after that, plumb up to his death, as "Herd Law Johnson."

My mother came to the Territory and filed on a claim five miles west of Elk City but she is dead now and is buried at Waukomis.

Weatherford was our closest railroad town when we came here but they soon ran a railroad to Granite and ~~we hauled most of our supplies from there.~~
