

MOTT, JACOB N.

INTERVIEW

#8221

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

Field Worker's name Alson J. Chase.This report made on (date) August 11 19371. Name Jacob N. Mott.2. Post Office Address Woodward, Oklahoma3. Residence address (or location) 413 Oklahoma Avenue4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 28 Year 18695. Place of birth Lee County, Illinois6. Name of Father Gilbert Mott Place of birth Vermont

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Arilla Wedg Place of birth New York

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 _____.

Alson J. Chase
Interviewer
August 11, 1937.

Interview with Jacob N. Mott
Woodward, Oklahoma

I lived in Illinois and worked by the day, got tired of that and hearing of land to be filed on in western Oklahoma, decided to come and get me a home, so I loaded my family and household goods into a covered wagon and started out.

I came to Grant County, stayed there awhile and then came on to Woodward County and filed on a quarter just north of the present town of Tangier, in 1900.

We brought five cows and two horses with us and built a one room frame house 12X16. Our first well was dug by hand. It was sixty feet deep but it did not yield enough water so later, we dug another well eighty feet deep and had plenty of good water.

Our principal crops were kaffir and Indian corn and we also raised feed and livestock. We milked cows, churned and sold the butter for ten cents per pound.

The schools here were not so good. The first three years we rented a shack from a settler and had a three months school. The teachers salary was \$22.00

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per month. Later, a school house was built.

The first few years we would go to Grant County and make the harvest and thrashing, and then people began to raise wheat here and we would help them harvest.

I would work with my team for \$2.50 per day.

I was instrumental in having a telephone line put in to serve our community and it was named the Mott Telephone Company and I was also the lineman for it.

I served on the school board practically all the time.

Our only entertainment were "literations", spelling matches, and occasionally a country dance.

I still own the farm, but had to quit work two years ago and now I live in Woodward.