

MORRIS, E. S.

INTERVIEW

10176

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

Field Worker's name Ophelia D: Vestal

This report made on (date) March 15 1938

1. Name E. S. Morris

2. Post Office Address Lawton, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Park Avenue

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 27 Year \_\_\_\_\_

5. Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

6. Name of Father \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

\* } Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

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.

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Ophelia D. Vestal  
Investigator  
March 15, 1938.

Interview with E. S. Morris  
Lawton, Oklahoma.

I came to Fort Sill about the middle of January, 1891. At this time I was working in the Department of Justice as a United States Marshal. When we came here we had twenty-one or two Federal prisoners.

From Fort Sill we went to Greer County. As Texas and Oklahoma both claimed that land we didn't stay there but a short while, then went back to El Reno. In El Reno I worked until May, 1896, then went to Creek County working a few months, then I returned to Fort Sill.

When I first came to Fort Sill the Government issued canvas to Indians to make tents of. As I returned here the Government had stopped issuing canvas and was furnishing lumber to build houses. The Indians hauled the lumber and material to the site and contractors did the building. I worked for Taylor and Williams Contractors who had fifty houses to build on the Comanche Reservation.

In 1898 more houses were built and this time we were camped on Post Oak Creek, west of here. We were at this camp

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working when the Spanish-American war broke out. Sixteen days after the war started we went to Fort Sill and heard that all the soldiers were already gone except a few cavalrymen who had been brought back to watch over the Indians as they had made some remark as to just what they were going to do. We tried to get in the service but were told they had taken all the volunteers they could at that time, but if we would pay our fare to St. Louis it might be that we could get into the service there. We were intending to go to St. Louis then but something happened and we never did get off.

Then I started working again for the Government, finally drifting southward to Lawton in 1901. After marrying in April, 1901, I worked for Heck Thomas on the police force and worked some for G. H. Black on the police force.

In 1897, I worked at the Indian school helping to put in water works and sanitary sewer. My brother and I worked there together; it was here he got sick and returned home. I kept working, then I received a wire that he was very sick. I answered saying if they needed me call back. My mother called me saying my brother had passed away. I rode horseback to Rush Springs, hid my bridle and saddle good and went on on the train. A few days later I re-

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turned, found my saddle, bridle and horse and came back. This sure was a lonesome trip to Rush Springs. There were only snow-birds to be seen and coyotes to be heard.

In early days I and a partner commenced to operate transp rtations. On August 6, 1901, I brought the man who was in charge of the sale and his clerks down town. The next morning ith a guard of nine men and one officer, we went to Rush Springs with the receipts of the first days lot sale, which was shipped from there. This amount was \$42,000.00. Then we brought the soldiers pay back to Fort Sill with us. We are still living at the site where our four children were born. Two are living and two have died. We bought this lot from Mattie Beal in September, 1902. One son lives near us and the other one lives with us now.

I am operating the Fort Sill busses now.