

HAMILTON, CHESTER DECATOR, (REV.) INTERVIEW 9386
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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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HAMILTON, CHESTER DECATOR. INTERVIEW.

9386.

Field Worker's name Ethel B. Teckitt.

This report made on (date) November 25, 1937. 1937

1. Name Reverend Chester Decator Hamilton.

2. Post Office Address Lone Wolf, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Same.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 12 Year 1898.

5. Place of birth Comanche, Oklahoma.

6. Name of Father Stephen D. Hamilton. Place of birth Arkansas.

7. Name of Mother Nancia Montgomery Hamilton of birth Missouri.

Other information about mother Typical pioneer 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 _____.

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Ethel B. Taskitt,
Investigator,
Nov. 25, 1937.

Interview With Chester Decator Hamilton,
Lone Wolf, Oklahoma.

My parents, Stephen Decator Hamilton, a native of Arkansas, and Nancie Miama Montgomery Hamilton, born in Missouri, came to the Indian Territory from Russellville, Arkansas, in the late '80's or early '90's.

My mother's father, William James Montgomery, was a physician who had carried his medicines in pill bags strapped behind his saddle as he rode horseback to visit his patients through the mountains of Missouri and the Boston Mountains of Arkansas.

Grandfather came with my parents to the Indian Territory, all moving in wagons drawn by oxen. They were three months on the way from Russellville, Arkansas, to where Comanche, now in Stephens County, is located for travel was slow, as the oxen did not cover many miles in a day. Then, too, the oxen had to be given time to gather their own food from the grass at night and at noon or they would not keep up their strength to pull the wagons.

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One night after my people had reached the Indian Territory their oxen all disappeared and, look as they would, the cattle could not be found. My father had a saddle horse along, so he saddled his horse, buckled on his old 45 pistol and rode out to where he could see more white people herding some stock. He asked to look thru these and found nothing of his work oxen but at last he noticed something suspicious in the appearance of a clump of bushes not so far away. To these he went and there were his oxen hidden in the brush. He drove them back to the camp and the cattle-rustlers, for that was what the band of men were doing, did not molest them any more but they had been riding ahead of my people for several days waiting the opportunity to steal the oxen.

They were detained at one time quite a while near the camp of Indian Chief Guy, who was very kind to them. My brother was only a baby and Chief Guy became very fond of him, also was much pleased with my grandfather and father so he made them an offer to assist them and make them rich, if they would stay there near his place and let him have my brother. Of course, my parents would do

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no such thing, but they named my brother "Guy" for the Indian Chief. He is now William James Guy Hamilton and is teaching the Indians of New Mexico, Colorado and Utah farm conservation.

My people settled at Comanche where my uncle and grandfather yet live. My grandfather was an active physician among the Indians and whites alike in that vicinity until advanced age forced him to give up his work.

My father possessed the pioneer spirit to such an extent that as one community settled up he wanted to move on to another. Although he did not have the school advantages in his young days, yet by hard study and some experience Father accumulated a great fund of knowledge and took active part in all community affairs, serving as school trustee and in many other public offices.

Father reared seven children and managed to send all of us to college. Three of them now have a degree.

Father later went to New Mexico and helped settle the country there.

I am a Methodist minister and am yet at work for the good of Oklahoma, my native state.