

PRIM, HUGH SILAS

INTERVIEW

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HUGH SILAS PRIM (White)
Checotah, Oklahoma
Interview - July 10, 1937
Indian-Pioneer History
Jas. S. Buchanan, Field Worker.

I (Hugh S. Prim) was born January 9, 1862, in Franklin County, Arkansas.

I came to the Indian Territory in the year of 1887. I rode a horse from Arkansas to this country, stopped at Webbers Falls where I rented a farm from a white man by the name of Jerry Vestil. After I got located, I sent for my wife that I had left behind until I learned just what the Indian Territory was. She made the trip on the train and joined me here and our life in the Territory was started on that place where we farmed eight years.

Five children were born to us before my wife died in 1895. I then moved from Webbers Falls to a place near Eufaula where I farmed for one year, then moved to Hoyt where I farmed for twenty-four years. When I first went to Hoyt

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I leased a claim from a Choctaw Indian by the name of Frog Hoyt, cleared about two hundred acres of timber and prepared it for cultivation and farmed the land thirteen years. It was on this place that Belle Starr was killed two years previous to to the time I leased the place. None of the settlers of the community were sure as to who killed her and if anyone had an opinion, it was not safe to express it. Ed Reed, a step-son of Belle Starr, was arrested for the crime and kept in Federal jail at Ft. Smith for a long time and finally acquitted. Belle Starr had only one child of her own, a daughter, Pearl Younger, though she always went by the name of Pearl Starr.

In those days, Frog Hoyt was considered one of the wealthiest men in the community, but due to poor management and other reasons his land holdings and money soon got away from him and he

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died a poor man, at the home of his sister at Pauls Valley about 1927.

In 1897 I was married to Hattie Hutchins, the daughter of Charles and Bell Hutchins of near Webbers Falls.

In 1936 I retired from farming and at my home in Checotah ^{my} wife and I are resting and looking forward to the future with the past behind us.