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BROWNLEE, JOHN P.

INTERVIEW #1301

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BIOGRAPHY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History

BROWNLEE, JOHN P.

INTERVIEW.

1301.

Field Worker's name John F. Daugherty.This report made on (date) April 27, 1937.1. Name John P. Brownlee.2. Post office Address Sulphur, Oklahoma.3. Residence address (or location) Route 1.4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month May Day 17 Year 1870.5. Place of birth Stewardville, Indiana.6. Name of Father Hugh Brownlee. Place of birth Indiana.Other information about father Medical doctor.7. Name of Mother Mary E. Brownlee. Place of birth Indiana.

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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John F. Daugherty,
Field Worker
April 27, 1937.

An interview with John P. Brownlee,
Route 1, Sulphur, Oklahoma.

My parents were both born at Princeton, Indiana. Father's name was Hugh Brownlee. He was born December 13, 1836. Mother's name was Mary Parks Brownlee. She was born August 6, 1846. I have two brothers and one sister. Father was a doctor of medicine.

I was born at Stewardville, Indiana, May 17, 1870. We moved to the new state of Texas, August 15, 1880, locating near Bonham.

I moved to the Indian Territory in 1895. My parents remained in Texas. I came with a family as a hired hand. We made the trip in a covered wagon in three days. We crossed Red River near Old Fort Washita (no longer in existence), on a ferry which was a flat boat pushed by oars and pulled by a wire cable. We settled near the old fort. After living here for one year I returned to Texas to help move some of my friends to the best country on earth. There were thirteen families in thirteen covered wagons. We were five days on the road.

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These families settled from Old Fort Washita to Tishomingo. The farms on which they settled were leased from the Indians. The land was very fertile and produced heavily each year, anything we wanted to raise. There was grass for our cattle, and we turned them out on the range. There were no taxes to pay.

The first house in which we lived was a two room log cabin with dirt floors, no windows and a cat chimney. We used wood for fuel and cooked in a Dutch oven on the fireplace. We got water from a spring. I lived here for two years and moved to Nebo, near Sulphur, in Murray County, and farmed here until 1906. Then I entered the mercantile business at Nebo, and ran this store for six years. We received our mail on a Star Route out of Daugherty, every other day. While I was in business I learned to know several full blood Indians, who were my friends. Among them were Scott Hawkins, Grandma Chinchetubby, whose English name was Greenwood, Eastman and Joe James, Tom Thompson, Ex-Governor Harris, and Douglas H. Johnston, the last governor of the Chickasaws. I also had a friend who was a deputy United States Marshal named Ben Collins. I was married in 1904 to Mrs. Cleveland, a widow. We had no children.

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I married again in 1923, as my first wife died in 1909. We have three small boys.