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BROWN, HENRY M.

INTERVIEW

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BIOGRAPHY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for OklahomaField Worker's name Selfridge Jennieis report made on (date) August 3, 1937 1937Name Henry M. BrownPost Office Address Overbrook, OklahomaResidence address (or location) Overbrook by school houseDATE OF BIRTH: Month January Day 21 Year 1856Place of birth Taladega County, AlabamaName of Father Wm. C. Brown Place of birth North Carolina

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Mother Anna Graham Place of birth Alabama

Other information about mother \_\_\_\_\_

tes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story  
the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions.  
ntinue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of  
ets attached \_\_\_\_\_.

FIELD WORKER JENNIE SELFRIDGE  
Indian-Pioneer History S-149  
August 3, 1937.

INTERVIEW WITH HENRY M. BROWN  
Overbrook, Oklahoma.

In 1873-74, my brother, J. H. Brown, owned and operated a ferry in Delaware Bend at Bourland Crossing.

Colonel Bourland lived south of Red River and for a long time sold corn at Fort Arbuckle. He made a road from his home to the Fort. This road came up by the "Devil's Back Bone" near the present Lake Murray site, then intersected the Gainaville road at Adam Jimmy point. These two roads ran together across the Arbuckle mountains. The Whiskey Trail branched off from this road near Woodford. The Bourland ford was being used when we moved to that location in 1869, and had been used for a crossing several years prior to this date.

There were several other ferries scattered up and down Red River at this time. Elliott's ferry was on the river north of Coesfield, Texas. Elliott was killed and his widow married Frank Mealer. They ran

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the ferry awhile, then sold out to Tuck, who moved it up the river and operated it until he was killed in Marietta in 1925.

A. H. Brown, who was not a relative of mine, operated a ferry about a half mile from the present new bridge, between Gainesville and Shackerville.

Alva V. Hoff owned a ferry at the Hoff Bend a little way below the Brown ferry.

Wes Talley ran a government distillery on the Texas side of the river at Willis' ferry, which was located on the river at the present town of Willis. This was one of the largest ferries on Red River and was probably established about 1859.

In 1907, I had my horses stolen and spent some time on the Red River looking for them; at that time there was a new ferry operating in Delaware Bend. I never found the horses. The men who stole them crossed the river at Beggs and went into Arkansas.

In 1879, Alva Hoff went to the site of the present town of Ardmore and cut the first logs for the house at the Seven Hundred ranch. He also built

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another ranch house on Hell Roaring and Hickory creeks in Love County. This was known as the Cross T (4) ranch. Russ Washington had put in the I S ranch west of Ardmore near the Prairie Valley school before this time.

About this time the Chickasaws passed what was known as the "two place" law. That is each person in the Chickasaw nation could own only one farm and one ranch. If Indians violated this law the penalty was \$500 fine and thirty nine licks on the bare back at the whipping post at Wishingo. Alva Hoff owned several ranches and places before this law was passed, and according to law he could not permit his men on more than two places, and he already had men at Ardmore, so he put a Mrs. Ritch at Ardmore and let her control the ranch there; that is, as far as the law was concerned she owned it. Dick McClish saw a chance to obtain a good ranch so he went out and talked Mrs. Ritch into giving him a quit claim deed to the property. Hoff took the case to court and McClish won the ranch.

"H O X" was the John Washington brand at the ranch near the present town of Hoxbar.

Demi-John Creek in Love county came by its name in a funny way. Buck Gardenhire and Columbus Addington went to Gainesville and bought a demi-john full of whiskey. A demi-john was a five gallon glass jug with a basket built around it to keep it from breaking. These baskets were made from wooden staves or reeds and went all of the way around the jugs.

After Gardenhire and Addington returned to the Territory with their whiskey some United States Marshals appeared, so they took the jug to a nearby creek and hid it out. This creek has since been known as Demi-john creek.

Spanish Fort Bend was on the other side of Orr across from Burlington, Texas, on the north side of the Red River. Soldiers were camped at this location during the Civil War. They did not have much to keep them busy so they went over to what was known in the

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early days as the "Rock Anvil gold mine." This location was at "Devil's Den" near Tishomingo. The story goes that they mined some gold and started back to camp. A little south and west of Adam Jimmy Point on Hickory Creek they were attacked by a band of Plains Indians. They had one small cannon with them, which they threw into a deep hole of water on Hickory Creek. They then put up a fight with the Indians returning to camp after the skirmish.

We settled at Love's Valley in 1880; at that time Overton Love had only a hundred and sixty acres of land in cultivation, although earlier he had had more. He finally put in over a thousand acres and claimed the whole valley.

On March 15, 1883, I moved to the present town of Overbrook where I have lived ever since, devoting my time to farming and cattle raising.