

JONES, W. F.

INTERVIEW

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ALEX POSEY

6856.

Effie Jackson,  
Interviewer,  
July 21, 1937.

Interview with W. F. Jones,  
225½ North Rosedale, Tulsa,  
Oklahoma. Deputy United States  
Marshal from 1897-1917.

#### Guide and Signal Points.

"The first 'look-out', as the Indians called them, that I remember seeing was on Bald Hill, ten miles northwest of Eufaula, known as the Posey Mountain, named for Hence Posey, father of Alexander Posey. These 'look-outs' varied in size. The average size was about five feet in diameter and ten to twelve feet high. There was another on High Spring Mountain fifteen miles northwest of Checotah; one on Chimney Mountain eight miles south of Muskogee. Then there was the one on the high hill where the Veterans' Hospital is at Muskogee.

There was also a 'look-out' on a round mountain three miles northeast of Inola. Then there was the well-known one on Round Knob Hill north of Sapulpa. The one on the Osage Hill, I personally know of, was about seven miles northwest of Tulsa. The Osages used these rock mounds for burials, the rocks forming protection for the body of the dead. The other tribes used these rock mounds located on high points as signal stations or 'look-outs'. I used them

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often myself in locating fugitives, especially cattle rustlers. For instance, I could stand on High Spring, and see across to Bald Hill (Posey Mountain) also across to Chimney Mountain.

Alexander Posey.

My first acquaintance with Hence Posey was in 1895 at Eufaula. He was a white man who had married a full-blood Creek Indian. He was about forty years of age at that time-quite energetic-a good farmer using his wife's land. I often stayed all night in his home, a good farm house very comfortable. Alexander was about seventeen or eighteen years old at that time. He was going to an Indian school at Eufaula, a very bright young fellow.

I remember Foley and Tulley owned the Indian Journal at Eufaula. Later Posey became editor of this journal. He began writing poetry, some in Creek and some in English, which later was published in book form. Joe Bruner has a book of these poems in the Creek Language. Joe says there ~~are only two copies of the book in Creek. The other copy~~ is in Washington.

Posey's death seemed to be forecast in his poems about the Canadian River that he loved. An eye-witness of the

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tragedy told me about it. Posey had been in Muskogee and boarded a train for Eufaula. It had been raining almost a flood. When the train got to the North Canadian it could not get further than the second bank, the Katy Railroad bridge was washed out. The water covered all the bottom farm land. Posey decided he would cross by boat. Some negroes had a boat about where the second bank was. Posey and another man walked down the railroad track toward the second bank to get in the boat. All at once the water seemed to rise in the river, Posey grabbed at a tree. The negro threw a rope, and the man with Posey caught on to it and got to the canoe. Posey caught on to the rope with one hand, but still clung to the tree with the other instead of tying it around him. All at once the rest of the bridge and track broke with the swift current and he was swept away with it. His body was found the next day on a sand bar two miles down the river. The waters he loved had claimed him.