

HANEY, R. L.

INTERVIEW

#18182 153

BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
~~Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma~~

Field Worker's name Robert B. Thomas

This report made on (date) November 19, 7
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1. Name R. L. Haney
2. Post Office Address 305 Franklin Street, Muskogee, Oklahoma
3. Residence address (or location) Muskogee, Oklahoma
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 3 Year 1868
5. Place of birth Sequoyah County, Oklahoma

6. Name of Father Newt Haney Place of birth North Carolina
Other information about father Came to Indian Territory in 1866
and settled near Muldrow, Oklahoma. He was a full-blood Cherokee.
7. Name of Mother Elizabeth Cantrell Place of birth Atlanta, Georgia.
Other information about mother Married in 1866 to my father, in
Georgia and came to Indian Territory and settled in Sequoyah
County, Oklahoma. Her family was prominent.

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 8.

Interview with R. L. Haney
Muskogee, Oklahoma

Interviewer, Robert B. Thomas
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149
November 19, 1937

I was born August 3, 1868, in Sequoyah County, Oklahoma.

My father, Newt N. Haney, a full-blood Cherokee, was born in Cherokee, North Carolina, April 1, 1844, and came to Oklahoma in 1866. He settled in Sequoyah County and I was born there two years later. He was twenty-two years old when he came to the Indian Territory. He died in 1918 at Shawnee, Oklahoma, and is buried there.

My grandfather fought under General Lee and was in the battle of Missionary Ridge and others.

My father was a leader among the Cherokees. When he came to Oklahoma he began to take an interest in tribal affairs and attended all public meetings.

My grandfather was a physician in North Carolina; was in the Revolutionary War.

My mother, Elizabeth Cantrell, was born in Atlanta, Georgia. She came to Sequoyah County in 1866,

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immediately after her marriage to my father.

Her father was Irish, his name was Wooley. He came from Dublin, Ireland, with his wife.

I am half-blood Cherokee.

My mother died in 1926 and is buried at Pawhuska, Oklahoma.

I was educated in the country schools of Sequoyah County then went to Carlisle where I graduated, in 1895.

I was a scout for the government for several years. I lived among the Sac and Fox Indians near Shawnee and was at Jim Thorp's father's death bed. I knew his family intimately; he is a great athlete. My children went to school with him.

The Government sent me to various reservations to advise the Indians how to farm and how to make an honest living. I was sent to Old Mexico by the Government to look after some Cherokees and Kickapoos. I was with the Wyandottes in Toronto, Canada. I was in charge of the Omahas at Fremont, Nebraska. I was among the Plains tribes three years in Western Oklahoma; helped the Government issue rations and did scout work for the Government.

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Then I was on a ranch in Western Oklahoma some time and learned a great deal about the habits and customs of the Plains Indians. I sold a bunch of Comanches and Cheyennes a hog one time that had been dead three days, they gave me three loads of wood for it. They called a meeting that night and had about seventy-five Indians there and made merry. They beat tom toms and ate the hog; roasted some of it and ate some raw. They danced all night and day.

I have seen the Plains Indians have a dance called the Hog Dance. They all congregate in a shady place and build a bonfire and hang a hog to a tree. They would cut it up in pieces and beat it up fine and take a wooden spoon and give each Indian a spoonful of raw meat, including entrails and blood, then sing and dance and eat more. They would continue this until daylight, or until they had eaten all the hog.

The Comanches, Cheyennes and Arapahoes were the most numerous of any of the Plains Indians.

My experience among the Plains Indians is that they are the most interesting of any tribes.

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I saw the first train that ever came to Muskogee over the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad. I believe it was fifty-nine years ago.

I have five children, all grown.

I knew Ned Christie and my brother was near when he was killed by United States Deputy Marshals, either Heck Thomas, Bill Oliver or Bill Tilghman.

I was a witness in a case where Wince Mitchell killed a Cherokee named Johnson in self defense. Judge Parker turned him loose.

We are proud of the Cherokee race. They have furnished a great many fine citizens: Robert Owen, W. W. Hastings, Houston B. Teehee, and Sequoyah, the inventor of the Cherokee alphabet.

My father learned the Cherokee alphabet when he first came to Indian Territory. He helped a lot of Cherokees in the art of talking this language.

The early Cherokees said old Sequoyah was crazy. His wife and children thought he was crazy because he would stay in the woods singing funny songs and warbling like the birds.

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One daughter began to help him. Perhaps he would have never completed his task if she had not comforted him when all the rest turned him down.

The Cherokees are proud of him; his statue is in the Hall of Fame.

Robert L. Owen is the author of the Federal Reserve System and there are hundreds of outstanding Cherokees in Oklahoma.

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