

THOMPSON, JOEL J.

INTERVIEW

#7392:342

SECOND INTERVIEW

#7418

THOMPSON, JOEL J.

INTERVIEW
BIOGRAPHY FORM

Form A-(S-149)

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WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

7392

Field Worker's name Hazel B. Greene

This report made on (date) August 28, 1937.

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1. Name Joel J. Thompson
 2. Post Office Address 508 North G. Street, Hugo, Oklahoma.
 3. Residence address (or location) _____
 4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month January Day 29 Year 1892
 5. Place of birth About 2 miles west of High Hill Methodist Church

6. Name of Father Joseph F. Thompson Place of birth 2 Miles west of High Hill Church
Other information about father He was second of nine children
7. Name of Mother Betsy Tims Place of birth 4 miles north & west of Doaksville
Other information about mother Mother died in 1925

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 _____.

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Interview with Joel J. Thompson
 Hugo, Oklahoma.

My father, Joseph I. Thompson, was a full-blood Choctaw Indian. My mother, Betsy Tims, was one-half Choctaw Indian. They were married in 1889, at the home of her father and mother, Vinson and Furaline Tims, about four miles north and a little west of Doaksville in the Choctaw Nation. Their house was in Nowson County. It is known as the Charley Blankenship place now.

My grandfather, Vinson Tims, was a son of Judge Edward Ward Tims, who was postmaster and lived at Doaksville for so many years.

I cannot recall the Indian name of either of my grandmothers. Grandmother Tims's real name was Furaline. Grandmother Thompson's for a time bore some sort of Choctaw name. They had never adopted that name when my grandfather Thompson married her.

My grandfather, John Thompson, died when my father was nine years old, and his mother lived a few more years. They lived over toward Spencer Academy, just two miles from where he was born. And was buried that close, also.

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Grandfather and Grandmother died and buried there at the old place, four miles north of a little east of Doaksville.

At what was called the old Methodist church and they had school in the church house for many years. My father was a member of the school board, and the children all attended school and Sunday school and lived on the lives. I finished the 7th grade at school.

When Dad and Mother married in 1890, he built a one room log house and another for a little more, for a kitchen. We lived in the house for many years until 1901, when Dad decided our house was too small for a small home, so he built a big house. Two big front rooms, with a wide hall between them, and a kitchen and dining room extending back of them, having an entrance and lots of porches. He painted it white. Then we had plenty of room. All the children were getting up so big then and we had needed more room. We reared one orphan boy, from the time he was twelve years old. His name was Wister Davis. He lives at High Hill now.

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The chimneys to our new house were at each end and made of mudcats, or stick and dirt above the fireplaces which were made of native rocks.

We were right there within 300 yards of High Hill Church, and when big meetings were going on we sure had lots of company.

My father was above the average farmer and made lots to eat. He raised lots of stock, too, not so many cattle but plenty of hogs. Then of course we had some chickens, eggs, milk, butter, etc., usually found on the farm of a progressive farmer.

There were lots of game and fish in our country when I was a boy. Dad could go out early any morning and kill a deer within a quarter of a mile of the house, sometimes he would go a little further, but it was not always necessary. We boys would listen for his gun to fire, then we would run to get the deer and bring it in. Sometimes he would go a little further, on his horse, and maybe come in with two deer or one big buck in the saddle and he would be riding behind. If a big meeting was going on, he'd kill two, if it was cold weather, and we would hang the hams in the smoke

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house for future use. Sometimes we would barbecue a whole deer, calf, hog or cook two or three turkeys, at once.

We, who lived to be grown, were, Alex H., and I, next, Joel J., Peter Hitchlyn, Simon H., Joseph H., Jincy, who married Wilson Aaron a full-blood Choctaw Indian. Then Marietta, who married Stephen Caldwell, a full-blood Choctaw Indian and Wister Davis, the first boy who was raised. He married a white woman, a widow with a little boy. When that little boy was about three and one half or four years old, he got hold of some whiskey and drank it and it killed him. The family was afraid it was poison, so they had Dr. Bonner come up there, with Justice of the Peace, A. A. Iglehart of Fort Towson, and remove his stomach. They analyzed the contents and said the whiskey had simply cooked the little fellow's stomach. I married this little boy's mother's sister, Ira Williams. We are living together now and have four daughters and a son, all grown.

My father, Joseph F. Thompson, attended Spencer Academy the number of years that each Choctaw boy was allowed to

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attend, then he went to Salem, Virginia, where he attended Roanoke College for three years. After that, he attended another college in Massachusetts for three years. He majored in law. He was always interested in the government of his people. He was county judge of Cedar County for several years, and held court at the old Sulphur Springs Court house about one quarter of a mile south from where the little town of Mattan is now. He held court each first Monday or Tuesday in the month, I've forgotten just which. He could have sent some one to be shot, but I don't know if that was the case or not. I know that he had lots of them whipped at the old jail, in, I guess on the Sulphur Springs Court ground. The jail was a small log building. There was little else there except two or three residences, and some small blacksmith shop. I never saw any one whipped at the court ground and I never heard of a woman being sent there to be whipped or to be put to death under the Choctaw Indian tribal laws. The court room was a small frame building.

My father was a member of the Choctaw Council for about six years. He was a Senator, and his brother-in-law,

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Jimmie Sims, was a representative. He was County judge first.

I don't understand why they had a County Judge out there at Sulphur Springs Court room, unless it was before Antlers was the County seat of Cedar County. Still they talked of old and new Cedar Counties.

Doaksville, Indian Territory, Choctaw Nation, was our Post office, until Corinne was established. Doaksville was about eight miles south of us over about the sandiest road to be found in the whole country, and Corinne was about three miles north of us over the main road. It was much more convenient for us and an easier road to travel.

My mother's people lived right around Doaksville, and were quite prominent in public affairs. Mother attended Fine Ridge Academy, a school for girls.

A. L. Osborne, a white man, lives on the old Fine Ridge Academy building site, and uses water out of the same old well that was used for the school.

We did all of our trading at Doaksville before Barney

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Noel put a store at Corinne. In fact his house was the first building at Corinne. He first built a small house, just for himself and hired hands to camp in until he could get his house built. His store was there, before his big house was built and he stayed up there a year or two before he got his family up there. In another year or so the post office of Corinne was established, and his son Lee was the first postmaster.

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