

HAWKINS, LEE.

INTERVIEW.

#7304.

Grace Kelley,

Interviewer.

August 30, 1937.

Interview with Lee Hawkins,
Route 1, Henryetta, Oklahoma.

Snake Uprising of 1908.

I made several trips down to the Hickory Ground Town. I had several relatives down there. They are dead now. They paid \$1.00 a head, each member, to join Chitto Harjo, who led the Snake Uprising. They tried to get me to join but I didn't do it. I saw many pay their \$1.00 to Sol Haggty who was the collector. It was their understanding that if they followed Chitto Harjo they would get the country back from the white people and that each of the ones who followed him would have their share the same as if they were Indians.

Nobody was allowed on the Chitto camp ground except the members, neither white, black nor Indians. When anyone came they were met at the edge of the ground and asked their business. So when the white men came to search for some stolen meat they weren't allowed on the ground.

I believe it was early the next morning when these white men came back. No one knows exactly how many of

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the Chitto Harjo followers were killed but they captured many and took them to Eufaula to jail. My uncle was there and he said the jail was full. They were kept in jail for quite a while, then turned loose. My uncle was sixty-seven years old and it was his first time in jail. He said the jail was the lousiest place he had ever seen and he had a job getting rid of the lice.

These negro followers of Chitto Harjo were from Muskogee, Haskell and all around. Henry Jacobs of Holdenville was one of them and he lives with his son Eli.

The white people claimed that the followers of Chitto Harjo had stolen some meat but I have heard that a white man who lived close to the camp later confessed he had stolen the meat, but he didn't say anything about it then.

Chitto Harjo's other name is Wilson but I don't know his first name. All Indians have two names and the Freedmen have two names too. Some Indians have three such as: Chitto Harjo, Crazy Snake and Wilson.

Leuvina Hawkins owned my grandmother whose name was Hammon. So when the negroes were adopted and filed

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she was given the name of Hawkins and we have gone by that name ever since.

Mail Route

There was a mail route from Muskogee to Okmulgee and then on to Wildcat. Burl Grayson was the first man who lived at Wildcat so when they got a post office they changed the name of the town from Wildcat to Grayson. My wife's father, J. C. Thomas was a postmaster there. Lee Smith was the first mail carrier that I know about then and Jessie Coleman carried the mail for a long time, she was a woman who lived at Okmulgee.