

OAKES, DAN W.

INTERVIEW

#12658

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

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Field Worker's name Lula Austin

This report made on (date) January 10, 1938

1. Name Dan W. Oakes (Choctaw)

2. Post Office Address Soper

3. Residence address (or location) 1 mile North of town

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 26 Year 1874

5. Place of birth Born in Choctaw Nation

6. Name of Father Thomas E. Oakes Place of birth Choctaw Nation

Other information about father Operated Oakes Ferry on Red River

7. Name of Mother Margaret Erwin Place of birth Doakville

Other information about mother One half Choctaw

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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Lula Austin,  
Investigator,  
January 10, 1938.

An Interview with Mr. Dan M. Oakes,  
Soper, Oklahoma.

My father held many public offices; his first public office was that of supreme clerk which he filled for six years. He was county judge and also served in the House of Representatives. He was Thomas M. Oakes.

I have a ledger which my father kept while operating the store and the Oakes ferry across Red River. This ledger was the means of saving a young man's life. Late one evening a young man stopped at my father's place and asked for work. Father told him that there was no work just then, but if he wanted to stay awhile maybe he could use him in a few days. The young man stayed and father put him to work doing odd things around and when this boy had earned some money he bought a shirt and some pants from Father. After this young man had been there a month, a marshal from Texas arrested him and said he was wanted for murder in Texas. The day he made the purchase from Father's store was the day on which he was charged

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with having committed the murder. So by Father showed the entry in the ledger, proving that the young man was, in the Indian Territory on that day, <sup>and</sup> he was cleared of the murder charge.

I attended school at Spencer Academy and Clarksville, Tennessee. There were about one hundred boys at Spencer Academy while I was there and we thrived on corn bread, beans and potatoes. I still use my grandmother's oval shaped iron Tom Fuller pot which is a hundred and three years old and was brought here from Mississippi; I also have the old wooden lock and key used by my father to lock the store at Oakes ferry.