



HAWKINS, LUCY (MRS.)

INTERVIEW.

7840

Etta D. Mason, Interviewer  
October 14, 1937

James A. Thurmond.

Mr. James A. Thurmond was born in Tennessee in 1848. His father and mother were Tennessee people -- lived and died in that state.

Mr. Thurmond came to Oklahoma the year before statehood and established his home at Tushka in Atoka County.

He built and equipped the first modern gin in the county. He was the owner of several valuable farms in Atoka County and owned and conducted the Thurmond Hotel at Tushka.

He served two terms as Justice of the Peace of his precinct and one term as Municipal Police Judge at Tushka. He was representative of his county in the Legislature. He introduced bills providing for the office of District Attorney and for amending the law in regard to stay of execution and he introduced several other bills for the benefit of the working people.

He was a Democrat and a member of the Free Will Baptist Church and belonged to the Knights of Pythias and the Woodmen of the World.

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Mr. Thurmond has fittingly been called the father of the little village of Tushka for he was always the leader in all progressive movements for the civil and material advancement of the town.

He died at Tushka and was laid to rest in the cemetery at that place.

Mrs. Lucy Hawkins who gave the above biography of James A. Thurmond, lives at Tushka.