

HUDSON, JOHN

INTERVIEW

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

Field Worker's name Lenna M. Rushing

This report made on (date) June 21 1937

1. Name John Hudson

2. Post Office Address Red Rock, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 11 Mi. Northeast of Red Rock

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year 1883

5. Place of birth Around Macy, Nebraska

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about father Indian Doctor

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about mother Indian Doctor

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 John Hudson
Red Rock, Oklanoma

[illegible]

My first home was close to Macy, Nebraska. Soon after

I was born, however, we moved to Kansas.

Our tribe lived in grass shacks and tepees. We obtained most of our food from hunting wild game. In the spring and summer there was an abundance of wild berries, which we picked.

We were a sturdy and healthy tribe, having a remarkable resistance to some diseases.

Both my father and mother were Indian doctors. They taught me what many of the herbs were used for.

For fever there was an assortment of roots and herbs used. Blackberry roots, crushed and the juice extracted, were used for sore eyes. For colds we used calamus water. Nose-bleed medicine was Men-a-kwa-sha-ki (a green white plant with long slender leaves). There are many others that I know, but you would have to go with me to see them growing in order to know what they are. I know only the Indian names for them.

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Our family moved to Oklahoma in 1875 when I was about twenty. Our home was located eleven miles south of Ponca City on the Otoe Reservation.

Conditions among the tribe began to change. We made a treaty with the Government and land was allotted to us. We had to stop our roaming and settle in one place.

Our food was rationed out to us, and we learned to eat many things we had never heard of before; canned goods, flour, sugar, coffee, beans, and slabs of meat about three feet long and four to six inches thick. We did not know how to use flour and at first it was thrown away.

Corn and meat constituted a meal for us.

The Government gave us money too, with which to buy clothing and other necessities. Too often, however, it went for whisky.

For all our trading we went to Perry. Perry, I believe, was one of the largest towns and trading posts in the southwest. The stores were made from rough native lumber. Sidewalks also were made from planks. There were more saloons here than anything else. Perry was a tough town.

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Supplies were shipped via the railroad as far as it went, and then were brought overland in large wagons.

The years have brought many changes. We have hard times now when formerly everything was easy for us. The white man's way is all right, but the Indian's way is better.