

HUMPHREY, THOMAS CLARENCE - INTERVIEW

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

Field Worker's name Hazel B. Greene

This report made on (date) July 21 1937

1. Name Thomas Chauncey Humphrey

2. Post Office Address Hugo, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 20 Year 1846

5. Place of birth Magazine, Arkansas, Scott County.

He was defense Attorney for Solomon Hotema "The Witch Killer" who in 1899, near Goodland School at Cold Springs killed three "Witches"

6. Name of Father \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Other information about mother \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_.

Hazel B. Greene,  
Interviewer  
April 29, 1937.

Interview with Thomas Chauncey Humphrey  
Lawyer and one time physician and  
surgeon, of Hugo, Oklahoma.

I was one of the defense attorney's for Solomon Hotema, who in 1899 committed a triple killing near Cold Springs, near Goodland School. Hotema said that he was holding a protracted meeting at Cold Springs. He said the people paid no attention to his preaching and that he was not getting the response and conversions that he thought he should, so he conferred with the witch doctors, and they told Hotema that witches were at work on the people of the congregation, and had caused the deaths of several children who had died in the community. The old witch doctor named the witches, Mrs. Lucy Greenwood, Amos Morris and Viney Coleman. An old woman told Hotema that she went to Viney Coleman's house, and that balls of fire were flying around in the room, and that she was sure Viney was a witch. Hotema went to her house, and deliberately called her out and shot her with the double barrelled breach loading shot gun that is today in the office of Judge Humphrey.

After he left the house he met the woman's husband, and told him what he had done. The husband said his wife

Viney was guilty of witchcraft. Then Solomon went on to the homes of Amos Morris and Lucy Greenwood and killed them. He went to the store of Al Nelson, at Grant, to kill him and Mr. Nelson retreated to the rear of his store and got his gun. So Solomon was afraid to try to shoot him.

Hotema told his attorneys that he was doing the Lord's will. That the Bible says not to let witches live.

Judge Humphrey told of riding a mule from Fort Smith, Arkansas, down the Military Road to Ft. Towson. He said he remembered no towns along the way.