

HENRY, HUGH.

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Carl Sherwood,
Investigator,
Dec. 14, 1937.

Interview With Hugh Henry.
Henryetta, Oklahoma.

Hugh Henry was born in January, 1848, in Nacogdoches County, Texas, third son of W. D. Henry, a Georgian, and Levisa Hutton, a half-breed Creek. After the marriage of his parents they moved to Texas, in 1832, where his mother died in 1852, after which time Hugh remained in Eastern Texas with his grandmother for about eleven years. When quite young he became a cowboy and started riding the range for Hart Brothers Ranch, until the breaking out of the war, when he joined the Confederate service under General Terry and remained in the service eight months after which Hugh Henry became a frontiersman in earnest, driving stock between San Antonio, Texas, and Saint Louis, Missouri, which was a dangerous experiment in those days. He drove cattle on the old Texas Trail for three years then he went upon the buffalo range, hunting these animals for their hides which he did one year. The buffalo became scarce and Hugh came back to the Nation and allied himself to the Grayson Cattle Company

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and worked for them ^{until} for thirteen years, May 15, 1891, at which time he started a ranch for himself with about three hundred head of cattle, twenty-five head of ponies and hundreds of hogs ^{gathered} in his work on the range. His ranch was where the town of Henryetta now stands; he farmed four hundred acres in corn and cotton which he hauled to the old Chocotah market. Everyone knew Uncle Hugh, for his big rattlesnake stories.

When the Frisco Railroad was built through that part of the Creek Nation Mr. Haley got Hugh to let him townsite his land and sell lots, Hugh gave his consent which made him a rich man. He also leased some of the land to Coal Companies. Henryetta's first name was McHenry, but Hugh said he would like to have the town named for his wife; they asked Hugh what his wife's name was. It was Etta, so they decided to use his name and his wife's which made the name Henryetta. This town is surrounded by good farming land and under the ground is a good grade of hard coal, there are also large oil and gas wells. The Eagle Pitcher Lead and zinc company has a large smelter whose payroll is quite an asset to the town.