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HENRY, HUGH (MRS.). INTERVIEW.

Grace Kelley
Field Worker
2-13-37

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INTERVIEW WITH MRS. HUGH HENRY
(Wife of the founder of Henryetta, Okla.)

I went to see Mrs. Hugh Henry and she was so nice to me- told me many things but there are a few things that I should have found out that I'll ask Tuesday when I see her. She has a typewritten book on Hugh Henry's life that will help us so much, however, she wont let us have it. Just copy what we want. This book is in a vault and she is the only one who can get it but as she is very anxious for us to get the story their way she promised to go and get it for me to see.

I'll write a complete account of my interviews or what I got , out in one report after I get that and talk to her again.

This is about what I have this time, just for your information and not so much for record.

Mr. Henry came here in 1880, the only family here. He and the Grayson brothers of Eufaula were partners in the Ranch. He married this woman in 1885, it was 8 years after he brought her here from Eufaula before she saw a white woman. There were white cow-boys here and they were nice men. She is white and was afraid of Indians at first, especially if they had their War Paint on, for that meant that they were on the War Path. The Indians made good neighbors though. Each spring he would go on "Round Up" and be gone for about three months, for there was no fence here and their cattle could roam wherever they wanted to. Mr. bought the first fence to put his horses in and almost scared them to death. Mr Henry's first wife and some of the children were buried where the strip pits are now. Luella went over there to see about them but they told her that there were no bones found, they must have been buried to long. (I have a story

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I don't know how authentic it is, from another person.) Mr. Henry and one of our children are buried on the home place. They told me they would leave them there as long as I lived, I don't know what they will do with them after I die. But I guess I won't know anything about it anyway. I'd like for them to leave them where they are though. Sonora was our first Post Office, the Mail was brought from Eufaula on the Star Route (horse-back). There isn't a post Office there now. Mr. Henry used to pay \$1.00, for each family he had living on the land to Billie Sullivan, dead now, for a permit to live there. We went our children to the Wetumka Mission school. There were other Missions here but they were just for Indian children. Mr. Henry and Clint Summers built the first school on Coal Creek and then we could send them there. They went to Wetumka on the train. It came here in 1899-Frisco. The Government took his north 80, and gave him another, to build Henryetta. He had a warrentied deed and I don't see how they could do it but they did. I never saw him drunk until after Henryetta was started and then people would get him drunk to get his land away from him. Many a time though I've hid from him when he wasn't drunk for an Indian doesn't have to be drunk to go on a war path. I don't see how I ever happened to marry an Indian for I always was afraid of them. His Grandfather and Grandmother came to Texas from Georgia and Alabama over the "Trail of Tears". There were 35 families of them. Mr. Henry ran away from home when he was 8 years old, got a job on a Ranch and worked for that same man for 8 years. There was 35 years that he wasn't out of the saddle, or rather was in the saddle every day. He "led" cattle on the Chisholm Trail for 4 years. To lead cattle, a Cow-boy would ride ahead of about 2,000 or 3,000 head, so closely

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did the cattle follow that their horns would brush his horse's tail. He would sing to them all the time, I can't remember what song but he use to sing it to the children, some Cow-boy song. He went from Sweetwater, Texas to Dodge City, Kansas. That was before my time. He was a Civil War Veteran but I don't remember about that. It was before my time too.

Homa Jass, and another called Limbo were Light-Horse Captains. The punishment for stealing when caught the first time was 50 lashes, 100 lashes the second time, 150 next time and death the fourth time. Three men with Winchesters- 1 loaded-2 loaded with blanks so they wouldn't know who killed him, would execute him. I don't suppose they would ask any questions if they caught a murderer. The Whipping was done at the Creek Post Office 8 miles from here. Between here and Okemah. Between Okfuskee School and Madenville. Mr. Henry was an Alligator and belonged to the Hilobee town.

There use to be a saw-mill there before Henryetta was thought of. 43 years ago. It made ^{walnut} ~~Walnut~~ gun stocks. They were taken to Checota by Oxen. I imagine they were used in the World War by the Germans but we didn't know that they were going to be used against our men when they were sold to them.

My father went to California in 1849 when he was 18 years old. There were 50 wagons, a wagon to the family. 10 yoke of Oxen to the wagon.

I want to get all the information that she can give us for she is going to Texas next week and then it would be unhandy. I'll get her address if I can.

Ella Perryman passed on to where she can't help us and it did sure hurt me for she was an old timer or Indian who would try to help us. I couldn't find her, and then I wrote her we would be there Friday. She died before she got my letter.