

HESS, O. M.

INTERVIEW

10220

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

Hess, O. M.

INTERVIEW.

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Field Worker's name Lillian Cassaway.

This report made on (date) March 18, 1939

1. Name O. M. Hess.

2. Post Office Address Anadarko, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 204 West Alabama Street.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month July Day 21 Year 1896

5. Place of birth Conway, Arkansas

6. Name of Father W. A. Hess. Place of birth Ohio

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Allie McGoffin Place of birth Kansas.

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 3

Lillian Cassaway,
Investigator
March 18, 1938.

Interview with O. M. Hess.
Anadarko, Oklahoma
Born July 21, 1896.
Father-W.A. Hess.
Mother-Allie McGoffin.

My mother's people came to Oklahoma in 1889 for the Run, but my father didn't come until 1901. He settled on a farm near Thomas. The town was named for the man on whose place it was built. Father's place was five miles northwest of Thomas. There was an old cattle trail that ran through my father's place. The trail can still be seen. It runs between the house and barn, and it must have been pretty wide for it shows to have been twenty-five or thirty feet wide. We always called it the old Kingfisher Trail. It runs in a southwesterly direction towards Clinton. Where the land has not been cultivated the evidences of this trail are still plain. I don't know much about this trail except that it crossed Rough Creek not far from Father's place about three or four miles.

The original Thomas was located one mile due south of the present Thomas. The old Thomas was not on the railroad, and due to this fact it moved to the railroad. The first

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railroad was the Frisco and came from Clinton to Enid.

Then the Choctaw was soon built to Weatherford.

Father hauled coal from Weatherford to Thomas in 1903. When Mother's people came to Oklahoma in 1889 they settled at Weatherford. There was nothing there then; but its growth was very rapid for the first two years, then it grew more slowly. Sometimes there were two or three rooms under the ground.

Thomas was established about the middle of August and every year they have a birthday celebration. The Indians are always invited and they come and camp near the town. At the early celebrations every day they were given a beef; then the white people were charged a fee to see them butcher and dress the beef. The men killed the beef and the women skinned it and dressed it. When they came to the liver a man took his knife, sliced off a piece, opened the gall and dipped the slice of raw liver into the gall and ate it raw. Declaring it good he passed his knife to the next man. It was soon all eaten in this manner. I don't know whether they were showing off or whether they

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really liked it. I don't know what became of the hides.

The country was developed mostly by the Mennonites. They were called the Hook and Eye Dutchmen. They were farmers and I never saw one with a business.

There is a settlement of Cheyenne Indians near Thomas yet. They have houses now but they also have the old time arbors where they spend most of the summertime..