

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

HALE, GEORGE.

INTERVIEW.

9523.

Field Worker's name Robert H. Boatman.

This report made on (date) December 23, 1937.

1. Name George Hala.

2. Post Office Address Blanchard, McClain County.

3. Residence address (or location) North Blanchard.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month May Day 5 Year 1882.

5. Place of birth Texas.

6. Name of Father Jack Hala. Place of birth Virginia.

Other information about father Born 1845.

7. Name of Mother Rebecca Hala. Place of birth Virginia.

Other information about mother Born 1845.

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.

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Robert H. Boatman,
Investigator,
December 23, 1937.

An Interview With George Hale,
North Blanchard, McClain County.

I was born in the state of Texas, May 5, 1882 and from Texas I came to the Indian Territory at an early age moving here in 1890. We settled first in the Chickasaw Nation some fourteen miles east of the place where the town of Chickasha is now located. There then was no Chickasha then only a small tent town without a permanent building in it. People traveled by horseback or by wagon and teams. Our move from Texas was made by wagons and teams and a group of families came with us some of whom drove ox teams. There were no roads except those which were so boggy that sometimes from three to six yoke of oxen would be hitched to one wagon to pull it out of a bog and in several instances the tongue would be pulled out of a wagon and still be in a mud hole and sometimes it would take all day and sometimes two days to get a wagon out of a bog. The few tents were some distance south of where the town of Chickasha now is and the exact place where the town now is located was then a lake of water from two to four feet deep. We traveled on and settled and the

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first work to be done was the erection of a home and we then built our first home in the Indian Territory which consisted of twin dugouts cut in the side of a small hill and after they were dug they were covered with small logs then a foot or so of sod, leaves and dirt was put on top of the logs and a fireplace or chimney was then built of sticks and clay and that was then a modern home of the Indian Territory.

The house was all that could be expected and did very well as long as the weather was dry though after a big rain ^{two} or had come the roof would leak for a week and all clothing and other household goods were then taken outside the "mansion" and dried.

In my first home in the Indian Territory the furniture was in keeping with the home. Mostly hand-made and there was very little of it for there was no room for unnecessary stools. The reason for people living mostly in dugouts was that they thought a dugout was better protection from the Indians. The early settlers were always in fear that a band of Indians would run in and massacre them, though the Chickasaws were never bad and were always friendly enough.

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In case of sickness among the early settlers almost all the medicines were compounded at home of herbs and if a settler had gained the friendship of some Indians they would then generally assist in the gathering of herbs and the compounding of medicines.

The pioneer life in the Territory was like any life in a new country, with first tarpole wagons, ox teams, dugouts and shacks for homes. We never had to worry about anything to eat, for the country was then full of wild turkey and deer and also much beef was used for food.

All our clothing was hand-made for there were no towns and when a store was established about all the supplies that were kept were flour, sugar and coffee and tobacco.