

SELF, ANNIE MAUDE USRAY

INTERVIEW

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

Worker's name Hazel B. Greene

Report made on (date) October 2 1937

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Name Annie Maude Usray Self

Post Office Address Hugo, Oklahoma.

Residence address (or location) _____

DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 5 Year 1873

Place of birth Roebuck Lake

Name of Father Judge James Shelby Usray Place of birth Texas

Other information about father French and Irish

Name of Mother L. A. Maude Roebuck Place of birth in Gay Community near Hugo.

Other information about mother one-half Choctaw.

Both parents buried at Roebuck Cemetery, near Old Factory Hill.

For complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Write on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached _____

SELF, MRS. Mable USRY

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Hazel B. Greene

Interviewer

October 2, 1954

Interview with Mable USRY, Mrs. Hazel B. Greene

Her father was born in Alabama and her mother was born in

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on Roebuck Lake, and right near Red River. When I was born Mother was over at Granny's beside Roebuck Lake.

Granny Roebuck was Annie Homer; she was a full blood Choctaw Indian. Her father was Robert Homer; they came from Mississippi when Granny was fifteen years old. Her father was some kind of an officer who was employed by the Government at the removal of the Choctaws from Mississippi, and when they got out here the Government built him a mansion about two miles south of the old home place of Uncle Billy Spring, and his place is about a half-mile south of South Eighth Street in Hugo.

When I was six years old we moved out of the Red River bottom and father built a home about a half-mile west of Grandfather Homer's old mansion. We moved there so we could go to school. I was six in February, and in

that winter of 1878 and '79 the school house was built. It was not built for a school alone, but the Doakville Masonic Lodge built it for a hall, and permitted school and church to be held below stairs, while lodge was held up stairs. That school-church-lodge room was called Pleasant Hill and continued to be called Pleasant Hill until I was twelve years old. We moved away from this place when I

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was twelve years old.

I do not know when people began calling this building Spring Chapel. Neither do I know when Deaksville Lodge was moved from there to Grant.

My father, James Sherby Usray, was twice elected and served two terms as County Judge of Buchanan County, and was elected and served as Sheriff of Buchanan County, Missouri. He told us stories of the Civil War. He said that once a bunch of soldiers were out foraging for some time. They had no food and were almost starved, except for parched corn and water. There were almost no stores, when they saw a field of corn. It was full of ears and some were ripe. They went to that place, and another group of them, and they gathered it and ate it right there. They just

had salt and parched corn to eat. They said that it was the best they had ever eaten.

I can remember when my grandfathers lived at Lake Roebuck, and later at their place called Victory Hill about seven miles north of Gay, I believe. My grandfather was a half breed Choctaw, and looked like a white man. His name was William Roebuck, and he was raised by a white

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man named Doak. Mr. Doak had a store and blacksmith shop at Doakville, and taught my grandfather the trade of blacksmith. Grandfather's mother and half-sister lived at Honey Springs south of the present town of Soper, and his mother was postmistress there. His half-sister, Mary, became Mrs. Green Walker. They are all dead now and most of them are buried at Roebuck Cemetery.

I have been told that when my grandfather was a young boy, Roebuck was held to mark the grand other day's feast was prepared for the families of a number of the young bucks of the Choctaw tribe. Each young buck had his girl selected and the families of those girls were invited to the feast. After all were gathered, a young buck would catch the eye of the girl of his choice, and would beckon to her. If she wanted him for a mate she would start out running and he would start in pursuit. If she did not want him she would ignore the challenge. After all the brides had been caught the feast was partaken of, and concluded the marriage ceremony.

The ceremony of partaking of food side by side, after the chase in which the girls had been caught by the bucks and the fact that the feast had been prepared for that

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purpose constituted the wedding ceremony. That was the way
Grandfather William Roebuck married Granny.