



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

224

HUGHES, J.W.

INTERVIEW

9496

Field Worker's name Robert H. Boatman

This report made on (date) December 21 1937

1. Name J.W. Hughes

2. Post Office Address Blanchard

3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month April Day 22 Year 1860

5. Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

6. Name of Father Andrew Hughes Place of birth Georgia

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother Liza Hamby Place of birth Alabama

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

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Robert H. Boatman,  
Investigator,  
December 21, 1937.

An Interview with Mr. J. . Hughes,  
Blanchard, Oklahoma.

Early Days in Territory.

I grew up in the State of Mississippi; I was born April 22, 1860, and as my father was an overseer of plantations, naturally I was to follow in his footsteps. So I began at an early age as foreman of some large farms, until at the age of thirty years, I came to the Indian Territory in 1890 and first I settled in the Choctaw Nation at a place called Ravia.

The country was very unsettled at that point and there were very few white people here though there were many Indians.

The Choctaws did little or no work; the principal foods were turkey, deer, and beef and the different kinds of fish were channel cat, blue cat, buffalo, bass and perch. Indians were very fond of venison, beef and corn loaf.

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My first home was of the very primitive type of dugout which was two small dugouts, 8 X 10 feet, which were dug in a bank of a hill; the roof was of logs which were laid crosswise and then covered with sod and dirt. There were a few log huts of the very rudest type with the ends of the logs protruding from the corners anywhere from six inches to three and four feet. The ends of the logs were often times used to hang the carcass of a beef or deer on.

The Indians were always very honest in all their business dealings and never had to be reminded of any debt they owed; if a man was indebted to an Indian the Indian never expected the debt to be paid until payment was due.

Soon after coming to the territory I began to farm though only on a very small scale compare with farming today. Only corn was raised then and there were no markets for corn except as we could sell it to ranchmen who would buy it up for cattle feeding; the price received for our corn ranged from 10 cents to 25 cents per bushel.

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Soon after the beginning of the development of this country in an agricultural way, I began to take notice that this new country needed more attention than the breaking out of sod and planting of seed. So I then began to advocate the need of ditching the land and then the terracing of it and I feel that I have been instrumental in the full development and maintenance of the land of this vicinity, at all times declaring the need of a better system of farming and maintaining the soil.

I now live at Blanchard.