

HALL, FRANCIS HORACE.

INTERVIEW 9779

200

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

HALL, FRANCIS HORACE.

INTERVIEW.

9779.

Worker's name Nora Lorrin.

Report made on (date) January 17, 1938. 193

Name Francis Horace Hall.

Post Office Address El Reno, Oklahoma.

Residence address (or location) 619 South Ellison Street.

DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 8 Year 1860.

Place of birth Indiana.

Name of Father John Hal Place of birth Ohio.

Other information about father Died in Choctaw Nation in 1880's.

Name of Mother Vice Hurl Place of birth

Other information about mother

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. Use on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached .

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Nora Lorrin,
Investigator,
Jan. 17, 1938.

An Interview With Frances Horace Hall,
El Reno, Oklahoma.

I was born on a farm in Indiana September 2, 1860. My father, John Hall, was born in Ohio about the year 1815. He died after he moved to the Choctaw Nation. My mother, Vica Hurley Hall, I do not remember much about; she died after we moved to Missouri, a long time before my father died. There were nine children in our family, six girls and three boys. I am the only one still living.

Our family moved to the southern part of Missouri, near Fort Scott, Kansas, in the early '70's, and we traded at that city.

We later moved to Texas, going in a covered wagon, due south; the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad was just stringing their telegraph wires, so it was either in 1872 or '73. We made the trip without incident, crossing Red River at Colbarts Ferry which was located directly south of the present town of Durant. We stopped in Grayson County, Texas, and began farming. That whole

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country was covered with cattle then, you couldn't look any way without seeing them, they were just as thick as could be. I had an uncle, my father's brother, who owned a ranch near there and I used to have lots of good times visiting my cousins. When I was a kid my father took me to work herding cattle for a Mr. Jiles. While Father was working for Mr. Jiles, Mr. Jiles bought a bunch of steers and he took a bag of money and sat down on the floor and poured a pile of money, gold and silver, out on the floor between his legs. He paid the man from whom he had bought the steers, his own banker, from this pile of money. I worked for this rancher for some time, doing what was called "close herding". The rancher would gather up a bunch of steers, getting them ready to send to market, and while waiting to get them all collected, would have some one do "close herding" until the cowboys had gotten them all together and ready to take them on to market.

We came to the Choctaw Nation in the Indian Territory somewhere about 1878 or 1879, moving to a farm about twelve miles east of Caddo. We had cows, horses and chickens and

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raised corn. The country was full of deer, and I have seen as many as twenty-five deer in a bunch, and have seen wild turkeys galore. I killed one antelope and lots of wild turkeys. We lived in a log house that was considered pretty good for that time; it had four or five rooms, with an upstairs. Later, we moved to Caddo and ran a wagon yard and sold water, running a water wagon. We sold the water for 5¢ a bucket and 50¢ per barrel. The land at Caddo was black and the water was not fit to drink. Father hauled the water he sold from a very nice spring of good water that was located two miles northeast of Caddo.

I went to school at Caddo and was in the third grade while there. The teacher's name was Jones.

While we lived at Caddo I knew a freighter by the name of Rosebrook. One time I went with Mr. Rosebrook to Fort Sill, and it was on this trip that I saw my first Indians. Fort Sill was on the Reservation, and my hair stood straight up when I saw those Indians. They were wearing white blankets with a stripe right down the back; I was scared stiff, but they didn't harm us.

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My father died while ^{we} were living in Caddo, and I then got a job driving a six mule team for Mr. Jim Smith. I drove the six mule team with one line called a jerk line; I hauled groceries, clothing and whatever was needed to Fort Sill. It would take us twenty days if the weather was good to make the round trip of one hundred and sixty miles. There was another freighter I knew named Tom Hall (no relation) and another by the name of Brown. I do not remember just how long I worked at the freighting, but the last load I took was a load of Buffalo hides to Wichita, Kansas. (There were no longer any live buffaloes but they still had some hides left). I did not come back to Oklahoma but went to Andrew County, Missouri, working here and there on a farm or farms. I went to Nebraska and out into New Mexico.

I came back to Caddo and was married to Miss Mary Porter in 1886. ^{Some years later} we went up into the Washita country and took a claim; at this time we had three children. We are the parents of ten children, seven of whom are living. I filed on the claim after the opening; it was just raw prairie, no trees or anything. I built a sod

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house about half of which was under the ground, just one room. I had eighty or ninety acres broke out and some pasture put under fencing. At first I had a hay barn and later I built a good barn of lumber; I also made some granaries. We put out an orchard and had quite a nice one, mostly peaches. We lived on this claim a long time, then sold it and bought a farm about eighteen miles north of Shawnee. I bought two other farms after that. He moved from the farm north of Shawnee and moved to Prague. My wife died at that place about nine years ago; from there I went to Berger, Texas, and lived there with a son for four years. For the last five years I have been living in El Reno with a daughter.

When I first came to Oklahoma there was plenty of wolves and coyotes and I have killed lots of them, also plenty of wild cats and lots of coons. We always kept a pack of coon dogs for hunting coons.

There were lots of outlaws in the Indian Territory, who had come down here to get away from the law, and to make "whoopie." I have seen them, always carrying their guns strapped on them.