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Interview with  
Mr. W. H. Jackson.  
Tishomingo, Oklahoma.  
March 24, 1937.

GRACE W. SMITH  
Field Worker.

Mr. W. H. Jackson, better known as Judge Jackson, was born in Ray County, Tennessee, April 3, 1852. He came to this country from Tennessee November 1870. He is a white man, intermarried with Indian woman. His people were Tennessee born and they would not leave their native state.

Mr. W. H. Jackson served in the Chickasaw tribe for 13 years, holding different offices. He was attorney general for Chickasaws, judge of the Chickasaws, and served in the legislature. He was the first white man to serve as sheriff of the Chickasaws and the second white man ever elected as Attorney General of the Chickasaws by popular vote of the Indians. He had charge of the Indian schools for ten years, five years at Rock Academy and five years at Cohen Institute.

#### TOWN

Bromide, in the old days, was called Salt Springs, because the Indians thought the springs contained salt. They would go there and drink the water for rheumatism. Then Mr. W. H. Jackson sent a sample of this water to Toronto, Canada, for analysis, and the water was found to contain Bromide and other chemicals beneficial to health, but very little salt. The town Bromide

derives its name from the springs. Mr. Jackson is the father of Bromide, Oklahoma. He practically paid for the railroad, then called M. O. and G. now the K. O. and G., just to get it out to his watering place.

#### MINES

Mr. W. H. Jackson was the founder of the manganese mine (iron ore). The mine located seven miles north of Bromide, was the first mine ever developed in the state of Oklahoma. Mr. Jackson sent a sample of this ore to Toronto, Canada, and the analysis proved to be fifty-six percent manganese ore, but after spending much money in developing this mine, there was not a large enough vein to justify the manufacture of it. He did send it out in small quantities to other places.

#### POST OFFICE.

Mr. W. H. Jackson founded the post office at Viola, Oklahoma. It was called the star route. This post office was named after his oldest daughter, Viola, the wife of H.H. Burris today.

#### WATER WHEEL

Mr. Jackson made use of an expensive overshot water wheel to develop power. He said it was the largest wheel of its kind west of the Mississippi River at the time he bought it.

#### BONE CARRIERS

This is one of the legends of the people, handed down from generation to generation. In the old days when one of their people

died, the Indians would string him up and let the flesh dry off the bones; then they would take the bones down, wash them and when the people moved to better hunting grounds, they would carry the bones. This duty was assigned to the old women, the ones that were too old to do anything else.

#### BURIAL GROUNDS

When one of the family would die the Indians would often bury them under the floor for safekeeping and to have them close to them. If too many of the same family died, the Indians would leave this place for they thought it was the evil spirits that were causing all of these deaths. Not all of the Indians were of that faith.

#### HAIR

In the past it was the custom of the Indian men to wear their hair long. If a white man inter-married into the Indian race and he wanted to be recognized as one of them, he let his hair grow as the Indian men did. Judge Jackson told me that in those days he had long hair.

#### WORK

Judge Jackson told me when he first came to this country he worked for fifty-cents a day for Governor R. M. Harris' father when salt pork was twenty-five cents a pound and green coffee twenty-five cents a pound. He had the right attitude toward making a success of his life. As time went on he gradually made better wages.

Then he branched out for himself, and he made much money, but spent much of this in the development of this country. He is one of the Pioneers of this vicinity.

COMMENTS

I visited with Judge Jackson and was very much impressed with this man. He has a brilliant mind and is a well read man. He is a very interesting character, and is active for his age.

Mr. Jackson is writing a book of his life and the pioneer days and customs of this territory. He told me he planned to write a part in a kind of "believe it or not" form and have the facts to bear him out in these statements. He also said he had the dates and facts that he felt would be of interest to the generations to come.

Mr. Jackson has the pioneer spirit about him today and is very much concerned about the careless way this generation is destroying the trees and other things of beauty and use. He is a very thoughtful man and has the interest of humanity at heart.

I asked him of many details which he choose not to discuss, because they would be found in his "Own Book".