

GRAYSON, JOHN H.

INTERVIEW

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James S. Buchanan,
Investigator.
April 8, 1938.

Interview with John H. Grayson,
531 South 3rd. Street,
Muskogee, Oklahoma.

I was born December 22, 1872, on the claim that my father established in the Creek Nation, located about two miles northwest of what was then Honey Springs.

My father was William Grayson, three-fourths Creek, and my mother was Nancy Gore, three-fourths Cherokee.

The place of my birth was the original claim established by my father about 1870. He improved the claim and built a log house in which I was born and spent the first twelve years of my life. In 1884 Father acquired a larger and better improved claim from his brother, Robert Grayson, located about three miles southwest of our old home. It was at this place that I grew to manhood with a younger brother, Van, and one sister, Lucy, and here my parents spent the remainder of their lives.

GRAYSON, JOHN H.

INTERVIEW.

13533.

- 2 -

At my earliest recollection, Muskogee, Okmulgee and Honey Springs were our only near trading points, Honey Springs being the nearest. A white man of the name of Buck Rogers ran a tavern, store and a blacksmith shop at Honey Springs and the walls of this old story and a half stone store that Buck Rogers built in 1872 is all that remains of Honey Springs, which, at one time was one of the most noted watering places and camp sites on the old Texas Trail.

I remember seeing long wagon trains of emigrants passing on this old trail; they would camp at Honey Springs, and many of them would have repairs made on their wagons at Buck Rogers' blacksmith shop which was located near the spring on the west side of the trail. Buck Rogers' tavern which was a large frame structure, story and a half, and contained about ten rooms, was located about half way between the blacksmith shop and the little stone store on the west side of the trail. The Texas Trail being the only north and south road through the Territory. Buck Rogers did a thriving business for several years. I remember

GRAYSON, JOHN H.

INTERVIEW.

13533.

- 3 -

hearing my mother tell of working for Buck Rogers in his tavern for several years before and until her marriage to my father.

rather, during his active life, engaged in farming and stock raising, and for many years he operated the largest farm in this part of the Territory. He raised and dealt extensively in cattle.

In 1897, my only sister, Lucy, was married to George W. Hill, Creek, who was later Chief of the Creek Nation, the last Chief of the Creeks. His death occurred November 20, 1928.

I remember when William McIntosh operated the toll bridge over Elk Creek on the Texas Trail. It was a well-constructed bridge, all of wood, built before the Civil War. In 1884 William McIntosh rebuilt the bridge and replaced the wood bents with stone piers. A stone mason by the name of McDurmit built the piers, and they remain there today as a ghostly monument to those old pioneers.

Elk Creek makes a large bend in that vicinity and crosses the Texas Trail again about one and a half

GRAYSON, JOHN H.

INTERVIEW.

13533.

- 4 -

miles south of the McIntosh bridge, and a woman by the name of Delilah Drew, mother-in-law of Buck Rogers, owned and operated a toll bridge at that point.

In 1902 I was married to Luezettie Edwards, a white woman, whose death occurred in 1918. No children were born to us. In 1920 I was married to Nancy Ada Anderson, Choctaw. One son was born to us who died at the age of four years. His mother passed on from this life in 1929.