

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

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HAILEY, W.E. FOURTH

INTERVIEW.

5932.

Field Worker's name Grant Foreman, Pioneer History.This report made on (date) May 25, 19371. Name W.E. Hailey, Municipal Judge.2. Post Office Address McAlester, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

5. Place of birth _____

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

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 6.

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Grant Foreman.
Indian Pioneer History,
May 25, 1937.

Interview with W.E. Hailey.
Municipal Judge,
McAlester, Oklahoma.

Dr. D.M. Hailey.

Dr. D.M. Hailey was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, February 9, 1841. He became an orphan at the age of six years, by reason of a yellow fever epidemic. He was in Baton Rouge and New Orleans, where he sold papers and gathered his schooling, taking a course in medicine at New Orleans.

Enlisted in the 8th Louisiana Infantry at the first call for volunteers in the War between the States, his company being sent directly to the Army of Virginia. He was in Stonewall Jackson's corps and fought the entire four years of the war, participating in practically all of the major battles, including Bull Run, Gettysburg, Charlottesville, Shenandoah Valley when Sheridan made his famous ride, and many other major and minor conflicts. He was wounded four times, one time rather seriously being sent back to the hospital at Columbus Georgia. After his recovery he was

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ordered to remain and assist in treating the sick and wounded. This, however, did not appeal to his restless nature, and he ran away and rejoined his command in Virginia. There he remained until Lee surrendered at Appomattox.

When he arrived at Memphis, on his way home, he found a boat ready to go up the river to Ft. Smith. His spirit of adventure suggested the new country, so he boarded the boat and in a few days landed in Ft. Smith.

With no funds and conditions generally depressed, he sought employment. He found a school seven miles west of Ft. Smith in the Indian Territory. There he taught and practiced his profession.

Helen McCarty was one of his pupils, and at the end of the school term, they were married and immediately came west to what is now Canadian. At that time it was a small settlement marking the crossing of Canadian River. After about a year there, we moved to Perryville, five miles south of the present McAlester. At that time it was a stage post, marking the half way point between Ft. Smith and Ft. Arbuckle, and also the bissection of the old Texas Road.

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He continued the practice of medicine, but also carried a small merchandise stock. His practice took him to far corners, always horseback, as the country away from the main traveled roads was a jungle. Forty and fifty mile trips were frequent, also a bit hazardous, as Indians in those days were not entirely happy over the influx of white men. But his nature was kindly and his missions were of mercy, so in a short time he had nothing to fear from that source.

In 1871 the M.K.&T. Railroad built ^{through} this section. A station was laid out at McAlester and Perryville, being only about six miles distant, was deemed too close for another. So with the establishment of the McAlester Station, the people of Perryville moved almost to a man, to McAlester.

In 1870 J.J. McAlester had erected a small frame building about one half mile east of the present depot at McAlester, and had opened a general store. He had a small stock of goods moved from Ft. Smith by ox wagon. Hence the name of the town—McAlester. Dr. Hailey moved to McAlester, with the others, and established the first drug store in this section.

In 1876 he and Major Granville McPherson printed the first newspaper in this part of the country, called "The Star Vindicator."

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using an old Washington Hand press in the process. The circulation was small and I presume the advertising, if any, was not especially remunerative. The primary purpose of the paper was to advocate certain theories for the benefit of the Nation and betterment of the people.

In 1875 Dr. Hailey and J.J. McAlester interested themselves in the outcrop of a seam of coal about three miles east of McAlester. A small hole was dug and samples of the coal were sent to the M.K.T. authorities. The "Katy" railroad at that time was owned by the Gould interests and immediate arrangements were made for development.

The coal proved to be of superior quality and later became the dominant industry of the Nation. Millions of tons have been shipped from the vicinity of that original prospect.

Dr. Hailey

Later/prospected for coal at Savanna, uncovering a seam that was in every respect the counterpart of that uncovered in McAlester. This also was developed by the Gould interests. As a part of the consideration the Goulds gave him the "Company Store" privileges. That is goods were sold to the miners and the company protected collections by deducting the amounts from the monthly pay of the miners. The company issued what was

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known as "Scrip", a sort of certificate in different denominations that passed as currency in the store.

Years afterward he developed a coal mine of his own at Haileyville, the town being called so in his honor.

In the meantime he was interested in other industries and in civic development in Indian Territory and Oklahoma.

He was always present, though never a member, at the annual sessions of the Choctaw Council where he was ready at all times to give help and advice to the Council and Indians. He married an Indian by blood and hence had become a citizen of the Choctaw Nation by intermarriage, with all rights and privileges of a full blood. Schools could probably be classed as his hobby.

In 1875 he helped to institute the first Masonic Lodge in this section at McAlesser. He continued active in this work during his entire life. He was invested with all intermediate offices in both York and Scottish Rite. He became State Commander of the York Rite and the last several years of his life was Sovereign Grand Inspector of the Scottish Rite and an active member of the Supreme Council in Washington. He was also a leading spirit in the Mystic Shrine and at one time held a national office in the B.P.O.E.

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During the last fifteen years he was State Commander of the United Confederate Veterans of this State. It was his proud boast that he had never missed a State or National convention of the United Confederate Veterans. This organization was probably closest to his heart of all his affiliations.

He died October 14, 1919, at McAlester, Oklahoma.