

Notice of Copyright

Published and unpublished materials may be protected by Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code). Any copies of published and unpublished materials provided by the Western History Collections are for research, scholarship, and study purposes only.

Use of certain published materials and manuscripts is restricted by law, by reason of their origin, or by donor agreement. For the protection of its holdings, the Western History Collections also reserves the right to restrict the use of unprocessed materials, or books and documents of exceptional value and fragility. Use of any material is subject to the approval of the Curator.

Citing Resources from the Western History Collections

For citations in published or unpublished papers, this repository should be listed as the Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

An example of a proper citation:

Oklahoma Federation of Labor Collection, M452, Box 5, Folder 2. Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

BLAND, HUGH (JUDGE) INTERVIEW 9646 421

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

BLAND, HUGH(JUDGE)

INTERVIEW

9646

Field Worker's name Amelia F. Harris

This report made on (date) January 13, 1933

1. Name Judge Hugh Bland

2. Post Office Address Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 19 Cotton Exchange Building

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day 1 Year 1898 ✓

5. Place of birth Springdale, Arkansas

6. Name of Father Adrian F. Bland Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Mary S. Bland Place of birth Missouri

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 _____.

BLAND, HUGH (JUDGE)

INTERVIEW.

9646

Amelia Harris
Journalist
January 13, 1938

Interview with Judge Hugh Bland
319 Cotton Exchange Building,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

My father moved his family from Springdale, Arkansas, to Oologah in the Spring of 1899. We started from Springdale early one morning in a covered wagon, driving a big mule team, old Yak and Blue. We had our wagon packed with a few household necessities to camp out; we certainly had a siege of camping. The spring rains had caused the streams to be swollen and out of banks and the roads to be muddy and almost impassable. We often had to camp on a creek bank and wait for the water to go down so we could cross; we were about thirty days on the road. My father had made a deal with a ranchman, Jimmie Bell, to take position as foreman on his ranch. Bell had thousands of head of cattle and an overseer had a real job, as the cattlemen had free range.

We stayed on the ranch for six years and we children had to go five miles to school and cross Caney Creek, too, which was up half of the time and the roads were bad, also.

BLAND, HUGH (JUDGE)

INTERVIEW

9646

Crossing the creek worried Mother so that she wouldn't let Father have any peace until he gave up his job and we moved back to Greasy Belly, Arkansas. This is a small settlement between Prairie Grove and Cane Hill.

We hitched the same mules to the same wagon in which we had come to Oklahoma, loaded our camping outfit in and started back to Arkansas. Marked improvements had been made in the roads and bridges had been built across many of the streams and we made the trip in less than half the time it took to come to Oklahoma. While we all hated to leave Oklahoma other thought schools were better in Arkansas. Father bought a 160 acre farm and we farmed and raised a lot of fruit.

In 1910 he moved his family into Cane Hill and he engaged in buying and selling livestock while we children completed high school there. Then Father sold everything he had and loaded up this same wagon in which we had made the first trip to Oklahoma. We had a different team, however, for one of our mules had died and Dad had sold the other mule and bought horses. We were Oklahoma bound. Father was thoroughly sold on Oklahoma and he told Mother

BLAND, HUGH (JUDGE)

INTERVIEW.

9646

3

he wanted to live here until he passed on. We moved to Tahlequah and Father entered into a partnership with J. W. McSpadden in the mill and elevator business.

I finished at the Northeastern State Teachers College and accepted a position to teach a school in Chelsea, but I only taught three months and enlisted in the World's War in 1917 and remained in the service until 1919 then I returned to Tahlequah and accepted a position as teacher of Arithmetic and Algebra in the Northeastern State Teachers College. I taught here one year, then resigned and entered the University School of Law at Norman and graduated in 1922 then returned to Tahlequah and that fall I was elected County Judge. I served one term, then entered the general practice of law and was appointed to fill out an unexpired term as County Attorney of Cherokee County. After this term was finished I returned to the general practice of law at Newoka.

Many interesting and amusing Indian cases came up while I was County Judge, one in particular of a full blood Cherokee Indian, Arch Youngpig. He worked with the section

BLAND, HUGH (JUDGE)

INTERVIEW.

9646

4

gang and received his pay every fifteen days. As soon as he got it he would get drunk and remain drunk as long as he had one dollar. He didn't seem to have any people, no one looked after him or cared what he did. It was the general opinion that his folks were dead, anyway as soon as he sobered he would return to work. He got on a drunk and died suddenly, leaving 160 acres of land in Nowata County, which was held in trust by the Indian Department. The case was advertized and when it came up to determine heirship, there were twenty-six heirs. This case was heard over a period of seven days. One full blood Cherokee who claimed to be 100 years old was called upon to testify and the evidence disclosed there were two Youngpigs, different Indians. We knew that one of them was undoubtedly arch Youngpig's father - which? One was raised in Cooweescooee District, he had long hair. The other was raised in Tahrequaah District, he had short hair. The testimony showed that the one with long hair was drowned in the Illinois River. Mary Pumpkins testified that she knew him and that she was present when he and Nellie Peacheater

BLAND, MUGH (JUDGE)

INTERVIEW.

9646

5

ate a lot of green apples and that Nellie went swimming in the Illinois River and was drowning when Long-hair Youngpig tried to save her. She caught him by his hair and drowned him, she was also drowned. This was Mary Lumpkins' testimony, "Nellie and Youngpig eat heap green apple, go in river, we both dead." Another witness, a full blood Cherokee, Price Cochran, who insisted on wearing his hat in the court room (I granted him permission) said he didn't know how old he was but that he was a grown man during the Civil war. He spoke broken English, the testimony heretofore had to be given through an interpreter, he testified that he knew the Youngpig of Tahlequah District, who had short hair, and that he killed a man and was convicted and sentenced to be hanged. He said he was present at the hanging. He further testified that after Youngpig had been sentenced he was released to go home and he was told to return on a certain day, which he did. He said that Youngpig rode into town about noon on a painted pony and that he and friends had a big feast. Cochran testified that he saw and heard Arch Youngpig ask Short-hair Youngpig to give him his painted pony but the older Youngpig

BLAND, HUGH (JUDGE)

INTERVIEW.

9646

6

said he couldn't that he had promised to give the pony to Chief Ross. Cochran said Arch got mad and told his pa he wouldn't stay for the hanging, which took place at sun-down. Arch left earlier in the day. The case was decided in favor of the heirs of Short-hair Youngpig from Tahlequah.