

HOGAN, WILLIAM.

INTERVIEW

13792.

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

#13792

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INTERVIEW.

Field Worker's name Kenneth C. Black

This report made on (date) May 2, 1938

1. Name William Hogan

2. Post Office Address Heavener, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 13 Year 1851

5. Place of birth Georgia.

6. Name of Father Eli Hogan Place of birth Georgia

(Scotch-Irish)

7. Name of Mother Charity Hogan Place of birth Tennessee.

Other information about mother One-eighth Cherokee.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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An Interview with William Hogan, Heavener, Okla.  
By - Kenneth C. Black, Investigator.  
May 2, 1938.

I was born in Georgia in 1851 and lived with my parents until we moved to Alabama where my mother died. Father and I then came to Indian Territory and homesteaded, but the land was so hard and contained so much alkali that it couldn't be broken with six teams of oxen.

The Indians were so hostile that we could not buy food for ourselves or feed for our livestock. They were always on the warpath. They were Chickasaw and Navajo Indians. Our lives were always in danger.

I was a small boy of ten and my task was to herd sheep and keep with the cattle. The grass was surely good and as high as my head. The cattle and sheep had good grazing. It was while we were living here that I was a spectator to an Indian War Dance. I was with a man who understood Indian maneuvers and customs. The Chief talked to the Indians and they were as still and statue-like as marble and when he had finished the Indians clapped their hands and said something in unison.

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My companion said to me, "We had better be getting away as they said that all white people would turn to buffaloes and be eaten by the Indians." So we slipped away as quietly as possible.

After several years Dad bought or homesteaded a farm on the border of Indian Territory and Arkansas. The nearest trading post was Lewisville, Arkansas. This move was on account of the Indians being so hostile. They would neither buy nor sell to white men. It was about this time that I witnessed an Indian burial. A young buck, the son of the old Chief, who was to be Chief when his father became disabled, had died. They didn't bury him in the ground, but built a rock wall with four sides about six feet long and deep enough for the body and things that he owned such as, bow, tomahawk, beads, anything that he valued. Among these possessions there was a pair of fine horses with a fine set of harness. They shot these horses with their harness on and put them in a pit with the body. This Indian lad also had two dogs and these dogs they tied with the body. I know the body was devoured by those dogs.

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After I was grown I became a school teacher in Stevens County, Kansas, which is on the border of what was known as "No Man's Land". It seems that this was a strip of land where Indians went for a retreat, but it is now included in the state of Oklahoma. I had a crop of hay over in No Man's Land in the year 1893. This was about twenty miles from Stevens County, Kansas, and it was here that I witnessed one of the greatest tragedies of the Western days which can never be erased from my memory. This was known as the Hay Stack Massacre in No Man's Land at Wild Horse Lake. The two factions were fighting over the site for a county seat of Stevens County, Kansas, and they had a wholesale killing. They were in No Man's Land at the time and in my hayfield. There were sixty-four arrested for this deed. There were many witnesses to this but the state selected twenty-four of us. I was to be the chief witness for the state. They took me before three lawyers and a Judge and questioned me from sunup until 2:00 P. M. When I came out of this session the arrested parties were waiting for me with

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a lawyer. They asked me to turn and witness for them. They offered me \$15,000 to do this but I refused. They then said for me to leave the United States or to get under-ground in a cave or someplace so that I could not be found on top of the earth. I still refused, but they told me to come out next morning and I would change my mind. I went. I saw them shoot many of my friends. Of course I changed my mind and went to the hills. I stayed there many years until this case was not-prossed.

My home in Stevens County which I gave up to go to the hills has been developed as oil land and could not be bought now for \$100,000.00.