

EYS, SA, JR.

INTERVIEW

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

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KEYS, SAM JR.

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Field Worker's name Charles H. Holt

This report made on (date) January 15, 1938

1. Name Sam Keys, Jr.

2. Post Office Address Cleveland, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) Farm near Cleveland

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day 25 Year 1869

5. Place of birth Near Honey Springs, 16 miles south of Muskogee *

6. Name of Father Sam Keys, Sr. Place of birth Indian Territory.

Other information about father Served in Civil War.

7. Name of Mother Sarah McIntosh Place of birth Indian Territory

Other information about mother One-half Creek Indian.

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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Charles H. Holt
Investigator,
January 15, 1938.

Interview with Sam Keys, Jr.
Cleveland, Oklahoma

Sam Keys, Jr. was born in the Indian Territory in 1869. His father was half Cherokee, and his mother half Creek. He grew up on a small farm sixteen miles south of Muskogee.

He recalls helping with the farming when very small and plowing with a plow stock made from the fork of a tree using a small bull tongue on it to plow with. Corn and cotton were the principal crops that he remembers but they soon began to grow wheat and oats which were sowed by hand, also, when harvested he remembers the old cradle which was used by his father, and the first wheat which was thrashed by beating or "tromping" the grain out. Then it was taken to Muskogee to be ground into flour. Later he recalls that a man named Rube Evans bought a thrashing machine which was used in the community. It was propelled by eight horses and took more men to operate it than the machines of today.

The market places were Eufaula and Muskogee.

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The school and church house, which was a combination building, was three miles from the farm home. Mr. Keys' first teacher was Alec McIntosh who was a first cousin of his mother's. His mother's people were almost all Baptist in their church belief and one of the McIntoshes was a Baptist Minister and was the first one to preach at the school house church. There was an annual camp meeting held near Eufaula on the North Canadian River and Sam Keys, Jr. went to it each year for a number of years.

The Keys' farm was near the place where the battle of Honey Spring was fought, and the soldiers who were killed in the battle were buried in shallow graves which were dug in long ditch fashion and their bodies were put in two or three deep. And later the Government moved the bodies (or bones) to Fort Gibson to the National Cemetery. Soldiers came to Honey Springs and dug the bones up and transferred them to Fort Gibson in horse drawn vehicles.

Two of the full blood Cherokees who lived in the community of Honey Springs were named Sam Candy and

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John Rollingood. Star- Gray who was on the Cherokee Council was a half blood Cherokee.

The outlaws whom he recalls were the Buck-gang and the Cook gang.

A few years ago Sam Keys Jr. moved to a farm near Cleveland where he now resides.