

HARKINS, ANNIE JAMES

INTERVIEW

#12346

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HARKINS, ANNIE JAMES.

INTERVIEW.

12546.

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Form A-(S-149)

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

Field Worker's name Mary D. Dorward.

This report made on (date) December 1, 1937.

1. Name Annie James Harkins.

2. Post Office Address Tulsa, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 488 East Ute Street

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year 1869

5. Place of birth Mayhew, Oklahoma.

6. Name of Father Henry G. James. Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Other information about father Choctaw Indian

7. Name of Mother Lorinda Smallwood James of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Other information about mother Choctaw and Chickasaw

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 5.

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Mary D. Dorward,  
Investigator,  
December 1, 1937.

Interview with Annie James Harkins  
Tulsa, Oklahoma.  
Born March 1869.  
Father-Henry C. James  
Mother-Lorinda Smallwood James.

Annie James Harkins was born in Mayhew, in the Choctaw Nation, in 1869 on the day U. S. Grant was inaugurated President of the United States. She is of Choctaw and Chickasaw descent, daughter of Henry Clay James and Lorinda Smallwood James. Her father was a son of B. F. James, a white man who had come from Virginia to Mississippi and married a woman of the Choctaw Nation before the Choctaws were moved to Indian Territory. Her mother was a daughter of B. F. Smallwood and Anna Burney Smallwood, a woman of the Chickasaw Nation. Family tradition says that her grandfather Smallwood was a nephew of Greenwood LeFlore, who was the last chief of the Choctaws in Mississippi and who signed the treaty which moved them west. B. F. Smallwood

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served as a captain in the Confederate Army during the Civil War, belonging to the "blue-eyed" company, a company of Choctaws so-named because all or most of them had blue eyes, unusual among Indians. The "blue-eyed" company was also known as the company of threes, since there were several groups of members all having one name, such as three Leflores, three Springs, etc.

Mrs. Harkins' father, H. C. James, served in the Confederate Army in Arkansas. Her step-grandfather, Greenwood Thompson, was a captain in the Confederate Army, serving under General Cooper.

Mrs. Harkins first went to school in the old Presbyterian Mission at Caddo, her first teacher being Mrs. Hotchkiss, with whom she lived. While at school her expenses were paid from a fund provided by the Chickasaw Nation, a fund to which she was eligible as being of part Chickasaw descent. Later it was decided by the Chickasaw

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Council that they would not pay her expenses while she remained among the Choctaws so she and Mrs. Hotchkiss went over into the Chickasaw Nation where Mrs. Hotchkiss started a school and where Annie James again lived with her. Here their post office was Cherokee Town, a settlement which had been established by a band of Cherokees who had refuged there during the Civil War.

Mrs. Harkins attended school at the academy at Wapanucka and later at Jones Institute at Paris, Kentucky.

Mayhew, the town where Annie James was born, is no longer in existence. It was in what is now Choctaw County near Boswell and about twenty-five or thirty miles east of the M. K. & T. Railroad. It was merely a stage stand and trading post around which a tiny settlement was clustered, and had been named for a town in Mississippi.

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Mrs. Harkins, her husband and each of her four living children received allotments of three hundred and twenty acres each, the homestead being near Boggy Depot.

William M. Harkins, husband of Annie James Harkins, was of Choctaw descent, the son of Col. George W. Harkins, who served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. William Harkins was educated at Whiteright, Texas, served as a member of the Indian police for the Choctaw Nation, was a deputy U. S. marshal, besides being a famous roper and rider.

Colonel Harkins was a lawyer and orator, called the "rawhide orator" of Indian Territory. He was a graduate of Cumberland Law School of Lebanon, Tennessee. He practiced law all over the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, was judge of the Panola District. He later represented the Chickasaws in Washington, D. C.

Lee Harkins, son of Annie James Harkins and William Harkins, has an interesting little collection

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of Indian curios. There are several pieces which he claims have come from the mound at Nanih Wayah in Mississippi. He has a set of Indian Ball bats, his grandfather's diploma from Cumberland, dated about 1857, books in Cherokee type, books in Choctaw type, a complete set of Cherokee type, interesting old letters written by his grandfather, Indian pottery, one of the three existing books containing a complete roll of the Choctaws.