

HOBBS, JOHN MARTIN

INTERVIEW

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Jas. S. Buchanan,
Interviewer,
October 21, 1937.

An Interview with Mr. John Martin Hobbs,
R. 1, Box 128, Muskogee, Oklahoma.

I, John Martin Hobbs, was born in the state of Missouri, June 6, 1869, and was reared in the vicinity of my birth place.

In 1892, I was married to Jane Walker of Preston, Missouri. Eight children were born to us, six of them were born after we moved to the Indian Territory in 1896.

In February, 1896, I left Missouri in a two-horse wagon and not knowing just what kind of a country the Indian Territory was, I left my family in Missouri. The trip was uneventful and in due time I arrived at the farm home of my brother-in-law, W. T. Green, about two miles north of Oktaha. I worked for him that year. My family, with my father-in-law, drove through and joined us in the fall of that year. The next year I leased a farm northeast of Oktaha where I farmed three years. I have followed farming and stock

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raising ever since I came to the Territory until I retired in 1934.

The Indian Territory was the greatest stock country I ever saw when I first came here forty years ago. There was unlimited range and blue stem prairie grass as tall as a man's shoulders, but when the land allotments were made and the great range was divided up into farms, the cattle business was practically destroyed, and I believe this country would have been better off had it been left as a range and a cattle country.

I can recall several old time cattlemen who were prosperous in the cattle business in the early days, such as C. W. Turner, Jake Berryhill, Tom Johnson, Perry Murphy and Bill Gentry.

I think they spoiled a good country when they went to farming in Oklahoma.