

TITTLE, S. H. (HUSE) INTERVIEW 1342

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

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TITTLE, S. H. (HUSE) INTERVIEW 1342

Field Worker's name Ethel B. Tackitt

This report made on (date) April 16 1937

1. Name Sam houston Tittle (S. H. Tittle)

2. Post Office Address Granite, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) Farm- Ranch one mile W. of Granite

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day 30 Year 1857

5. Place of birth Rusk Cherokee County, Texas

6. Name of Father James E. Tittle Place of birth Mississippi

Other information about father Killed April '65, battle of Mansfield, Louisiana.

7. Name of Mother Jennie W. Findley Tittle Place of birth Mississippi  
1840

Other information about mother As widow reared her family

The father was a school teacher.

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 6.

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Ethel B. Tackitt,  
Field Worker,  
April 12, 1937.

An Interview with Mr. S.H. (Huse) Tittle,  
Granite, Oklahoma.

I was born November 30, 1857, at Rusk, Cherokee County, Texas. My father was James B. Tittle, a native of Mississippi and by profession a school teacher. My mother was Jennie W. Findley Tittle, also a native of Mississippi, born in 1840. My father was killed in the battle at Mansfield, Louisiana, in 1863 and my mother being left a widow, we lived through the usual experiences of the early settlers of Texas. As I grew up we raised stock and I went to Buffalo Gap, Texas, where I worked for the Connell Brothers' cow outfit. In 1878 I was a cowboy working near Brownwood, Clay County, Texas. I worked two years for Haynie and Handy. They brought three thousand head of cattle to Collinsworth County, Texas, and we held them along the river until 1880 when we drove them across Red River at Doan's Crossing. Their brand was H A Y. Again we held the cattle near the river, as we did not know that we would be ordered out by the Government or the larger cattle

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Indians would interfere or the Indians would make trouble.

Hand sold out the H A Y brand to the Day Land & Cattle Company in 1884 of which company N. G. (Givins) Laze was boss. The Day Land Cattle Company also purchased three hundred cows and calves from John W. Powers in 1886. This was the H-Y (H b a r Y) Outfit. The J Buckle Headquarters Ranch was located one-half mile from the Texas line on Elm River on the west side of Greer. I worked on for either the Day Land and Cattle Company or The J. Buckle and H-A Y Cattle Company. There was a line camp at the J. Buckle Spring and there were other camps over Greer County. I like to remember the boys. There was Lum Holden from Plano, Texas, also Fox Harbers, Frank Simpson, Jack Francis, Henry Hoover, Joe Thomson, George Boyd, Sam Doxey, Ike Barnett, Hank Conner and Ellison Carroll who later won the world's championship for roping. Ellison always did the roping for the calf branding and some of his roping horses, trained by him, would make the movies sit up and take notice now.

Until 1886 Greer was under the supervision of Texas and all

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judicial matters had to go to Wheeler County, Texas. In August of 1887 I was appointed Sheriff and I served under appointment until 1888 when we were allowed an election. Then I was elected. There were, of course, some lawbreakers, but on the whole everything was pretty quiet; everybody knew everybody else and there was no way for news to travel, only just as it was passed on from one person to another. Later on as the country settled up some pretty bad things happened and there were some killings but those crimes are of court record and I do not like to repeat them, as they concern our friends and had just as well not be kept before the public.

Two fellows stole a bunch of horses from a ranchman and I followed the horse thieves to Arizona and arrested one of them. The other one could not be found. The first made bond and later the other came in, giving himself up. He also made bond and when the matter came to court as they were both smart fellows they had the case already beaten because of the fact that they had managed to get the horses into the Indian Territory and also because the proper authorities could

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not be found to issue papers for them. We had much trouble of this kind. On August 29, 1891, I had been elected Sheriff again. A boy of the name of Jake Bocher was herding cattle for Bill Mann, a white man, on the North Fork of Red River near the place where Lugert is now located, and he and Bob Poline, a Kiowa Indian, fell out over a steer. The boy thought the Indian was going to shoot him, so he shot first and killed the Indian. This caused a terrible commotion among both the whites on the Greer County side of the river and the Kiowas on the Territory side. The Kiowas gathered, had war dances and said that they were going to fight the whites as they felt that the whites were imposing upon them. The whites in turn were excited and some of them as unreasonable as the Indians but the greater number of white people thought that more trouble could <sup>be</sup> avoided. However, many brought their women and children to Mangum and began to arrange to protect them. The boy Jake Bocher hastened to Mangum and surrendered himself to me, telling me what he had done. I placed him under arrest and in jail, then with John Byers, Walter Pendergraft,

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Judge Slavens, Judge Huling and fifteen or twenty others, set out for the Engleberger's farm where many other men had gathered near the seat of the trouble. Here J. N. McElroy who could talk the Indian language and two other men who could, also, volunteered to go over into the Territory and talk to the Chiefs, Old Lone Wolf, Komalty, Little Bow and a number of others. The four of us went and had a long talk with the Indians, assuring them that Jake Booher would be tried by the white man's court and asking them not to fight. When we convinced them that Jake would be tried they agreed that they would not make any more trouble as Bob Poline had a bad record among his own people. In 1892 the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians on the North, having some similar trouble with the whites; threatened a raid into Greer, so the Government sent forty guns and several thousand cartridges to be distributed among the people, so that they might protect themselves if Greer County was invaded. I know of only one of these guns which is yet in the county. That is owned by Verd Morris and was issued to his father.

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In 1887 I was married to Miss Laura F. Hensley, whose parents lived one mile south of Doan's Crossing on Red River. I purchased the W. W. Cane house and we moved to Mangum. There we lived until 1895 when I bought A.A. Broadies' claim of a hundred and sixty acres and moved there. On this claim was a log house with a shed room and chimney. All is still standing and is part of my present house, except the chimney, which I tore down recently to use as building material about the place. In this house Miss Belle Broadie was married to George Briggs in 1889. The house was built in 1886. My friend George Briggs lives in Granite now. When I finished my last term as Sheriff of Greer County, in 1932, I moved back to this place, my old homestead, where I farm some, raise stock, visit with my neighbors and drive up to Granite and meet many of the old timers. My wife and I enjoy the visits of our children and grandchildren. One son, Jack Tittle, lives with us. I always ~~did think~~ and do yet that this is the most beautiful location in Greer County and I am glad it is my home.