

WILLIAMS, WILLIAM AUGUSTA

INTERVIEW

#7584

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

Field Worker's name Hazel B. Greene

This report made on (date) September 20, 1937 1937

1. Name William Augusta Williams

2. Post Office Address Box 144, Hugo, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) Box 144, Hugo, Oklahoma

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 11 Year 1890

5. Place of birth Old Fort Towson, Choctaw Nation.

1/2 Choctaw Indian.

6. Name of Father Isham Williams Place of birth 1855

Died March 6, 1937.

Other information about father A fullblood Choctaw Indian

7. Name of Mother Alice Tucker Place of birth Indianapolis,

Indiana.

Other information about mother A white woman. Died May 29, 1902.

Father lacked 19 days being 82 years old when he died.

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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FIELD WORKER-HAZEL B. GREENE  
Indian-History Project S-149  
September 20, 1937.

INTERVIEW WITH WILLIAM AUGUSTA WILLIAMS  
Hugo, Oklahoma.

South of Hugo, Oklahoma, about one mile on the south side of Spring Chapel Cemetery, is the home of William Augusta Williams, a half-breed Choctaw Indian, and his wife, Martha Smith Williams, a full-blood Oneida Indian, from Green Bay Wisconsin.

Their home is an old boxed four room house, located on the original site of Spring Chapel which was a two story building built by Doaksville Masonic Lodge Number two.

The upper story of the Spring Chapel building was used for a lodge room and the lower one for a school room. The structure was destroyed by fire about 1906. Isham Williams was one of the leading men to solicit subscriptions to rebuild the school. A boxed house was built, then the county built a frame building for a school. Later it was moved one-half mile south of the old site, on the road from Hugo to Grant. And still later, it was consolidated

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with the Bearden Spring School, and named Bearden-Spring School. When it was decided to move the school building that the county had built, the old one was given to Isham Williams. He tore it down, hauled it away, piled it up at home, and let it stay there and rot.

Close to the William's home there used to be two springs from which dozens of barrels of water were hauled daily in 1901 and 1902 for the consumption of the people of Hugo. That was before Hugo had waterworks. The Billy Spring well was another source of water supply for Hugo. Soil has washed down from the surrounding fields and pastures until the springs are filled up and no trace of the walls shows. There is just a seepy mass of vines, cat-tails and water-lillies, all very green, showing the presence of a constant supply of water.

A hundred yards up the branch is another good spring, which was at one time a very fine one, but not so good as the Billy. Across the branch, up through the woods, across an old field and up a hill is the place where Isham Williams and his wife, Alice

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Tucker-Williams, moved when William Augusta, or Bill, was one year old. That was forty-six years ago. A daughter, Fannie, now Mrs. Barr of Spencerville, was five years old then. She was the child of a former marriage of Isham Williams.

When the Williams' moved there in 1891, there were two big double log houses on that hill. Both of them were of hewn logs. One was supposed to have been built by a man by the name of Gore before the Civil War, and he was buried in the front yard. That one was in such a dilapidated condition Williams soon tore it down because he feared it might fall down on some of the children.

The other double log house was old too, when the Williams' moved there; it must have been about twenty years old then because it was where Charlie and Susan Sanguin lived. Charlie Sanguin was a full blood Swede, in fact he was born in Sweden. He married Susan Spring, who was about one-half Choctaw Indian. A daughter of William Spring Sanguin died there and is buried in what was the corner of the front yard, in June, 1879. His daughter Selma Jane's

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tombstone shows that she was born in 1875, and was buried there February 1, 1881. She was about five years old when she was burned to death. Tom Sanguin's little girl and an old wanderer by the name of Houston are buried there, but there are only two markers to the graves.

Thomas, Charlie Sanguin's older son, was born at that place in 1872 according to his last wife. Miss Augusta Tucker said he was a grown man when she came to the Indian Territory in 1885 and taught school on Scott Hill. (Now Laurel Heights, Hugo, Oklahoma.) At any rate the Isham Williams place was settled among the first in this part of the Indian Territory.

The house that Susan and Charlie Sanguin built was destroyed by fire about 1927. The smokehouse is still standing as if a guard over the graves of Gore, Charlie Sanguin, his daughter, granddaughter, and the old wanderer, Houston. Houston was the first one to be buried there.

Susan Spring Sanguin married Bazil LeFlore.

They lived there a few years and then moved four miles north of Doakville, close to Ceptain Nonnemontubbe's

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place, near the "Sweet Gum Grove School." They lived around Doaksville and the old Fort the balance of their lives. Brazil died first, and Susan married John Roberts who is still living. Susan died several years ago.

Bill Williams' father, Isham Williams, was a baby when his mother died. He did not know her maiden name. His father cared for him the best he could until the Civil War began. Then he gave him to a white man, Hut Patterson, at Woodlawn, Texas, where he stayed until he was twenty-six years old, when he came over into the Indian Territory.

He could not speak the Choctaw language when he came to the Choctaw Nation.

He married a white girl who died when their baby was born. (Now Mrs. Fannie Barr, of Spencer-ville, Oklahoma.) Fannie was four when her father married Alice Tucker, a white girl. Alice was the mother of William Augusta (Bill), Mary, (dead) Alma, (Dead) George, living, Oscar (dead) and an infant who died with her May 29, 1902.

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Bill Williams' great grandfather, Apple, died near Indianapolis, Indiana, about 1895. The family sent his old family clock to Alice. It is ticking today on the kitchen wall of Bill Williams' home, and an old fashioned picture of Sara Ann Apple - Tucker, made probably sixty years ago, hangs beside the clock.

At old Fort Towson there was a double log house among the ruins of the stone walls of the fort, and that was where Bill Williams first saw the light of day, September 11, 1890. A minister lived in that log house in 1902.

Bill Williams' grandfather was Dr. O.N. Tucker, who lived in and around Doaksville and practiced medicine there for nine years. The place where Bill was reared is about a mile southwest of the city of Hugo. Bill attended school at Spring Chapel for about three years; then Armstrong Academy, but Gabe E. Parker decided that he was tubercular, and sent him home. He



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had typhoid fever. Later he wanted to go to school again. Some one had given him a couple of goats and he traded them for a heifer calf, and had raised one calf from her. He sold that one for .20.00 and went to Haskell Institute at Lawrence, Kansas. He graduated from there and took a post graduate course in painting and paper hanging. Went over to Tulsa to work one summer, and really got tuberculosis there, went to Arizona, stayed there a year and five months, got well and returned to Haskell where he married Martha Smith, full-blood Oneida Indian girl whom he had courted for seven years. They married in 1916. Then he came home, and was the second man in Choctaw County to volunteer for registration in the World War. He was in the Navy. His registration slip is #2 for Choctaw County.

Bill and Martha have three very fine boys. Cabe is a star ball pitcher and won recognition at Murray College, and Southeastern at Durant. Oscar has nineteen medals which he has won at track meets.

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from time to time. The Bill Williams' family is above the average Indian family in intelligence and refinement, that is the near-fullblood family. Albert is rather young.

The oldest grave in the Spring Chapel Cemetery was made in 1882, according to the old sandstone headstones. These old sandstones were carved out by a Frenchman by the name of Chouteau who drifted in here and was a stone mason by trade. He made tombstones for people all over the country for years. Carved out circular ones for coverings and walls of wells. Squared them for chimney rock and house foundations.

There are probably a thousand graves in Spring Chapel Cemetery, and about 500 tombstones.