



LEGEND & STORY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

388

HAYS, M.

INTERVIEW.

10495.

Field worker's name Robert H. Boatman.

This report made on (date) April 19, 1938. 1938

1. This legend was secured from (name) M. Hays.

Address Route #4, Blanchard, Oklahoma.

This person is (male, or ~~female~~) white, ~~black~~, ~~indian~~,

If Indian, give tribe \_\_\_\_\_

2. Origin and history of legend or story \_\_\_\_\_

Development of country from 1893.

Removal of Roff to present place.

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached \_\_\_\_\_

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Robert H. Boatman.  
Investigator,  
April 19, 1933.

Interview With M. Hays,  
Rt. 2, Blanchard, Oklahoma.

I was born in Arkansas, June 24, 1879, and remained there till at the age of fourteen years, I was loaded into a covered wagon and with my parents came to the Indian Territory, crossing the Arkansas River near old Tamaha, Indian Territory, which place came near being the end of the expedition.

There was no bridge and we were towed across by a tug boat which was pulled across by an underwater cable. When we were just about the middle of the stream, something went wrong with the cable and the boat broke loose and down the river we went at the mercy of the torrent stream. After floating some two miles we jammed into the bank which happened to be the side we were trying to gain so we lost no time in making our departure from the boat. We traveled along, crossing Canadian River at the old Young Crossing known as the old corner saloon

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and finally settled in the Chickasaw Nation, ten miles south of where Ada now is.

Our home was a log cabin of which the windows and doors were of hand-made boards and opened and closed from the outside.

We had little furniture and what we did have was mostly hand-made. Tin plates and bucket lids served for plates and tin cans served for cups.

Everything moved along nicely; people made an easy living for game was plentiful and in many instances a turkey or deer could be killed from the door of the cabin.

My first employment here was using a pair of mules and a katy-did plow, breaking out sod. The sod was so very heavy when breaking that it was a continual roll of turf from one end to the other. The land, however, was very fertile and when a crop was once planted a good harvest was assured.

The principal crops grown were corn and wheat; corn yielded from fifty to seventy-five bushels per acre and wheat from twenty to thirty bushels.

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Old Roff was a small country town and was the principal trading point of this section of the country and was located some distance east of where Roff now stands; the town was moved in 1905.

In 1893 the town of Ada was a ranch and farm land. There were only two stores there, the first of which was owned by Jeff Reid and the second one was owned by A. John Daggs. This place was used principally as an exchange to trade with the Indians who were very friendly, especially the Chickasaw tribe.

The Chickasaws were great sportsmen, especially at bronc busting and steer riding and were good marksmen with bows and arrows. When one of them was hunting he always relied on his bow and arrows rather than his fire arms.

In 1895 began the fuller development of this section of the country. The railroads came through and the town of Ada was then fully established and grew at a very rapid rate until today it has become a center of this section and has many advantages.

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I have been engaged of later years in agricultural pursuits and am at this time actively engaged at this business at my home, six and one-half miles south and one mile east of Blanchard.