

HALE, CLARENCE B.

INTERVIEW

7678

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Form A-(S-149)

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

Field Worker's name Mary D. Dorward

This report made on (date) September 26, 1977

1. Name Clarence B. Hale

2. Post Office Address Tulsa, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 1712 South St. Louis

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month October Day 11 Year 1886

5. Place of birth Pawhuska, Indian Territory

6. Name of Father John M. Hale Place of birth Virginia

Other information about father Chief deputy U.S. marshal 1980-98

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about mother _____

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 _____.

Mary D. Dorward, Field Worker
Indian-Pioneer History S149
September 25, 1937

#7678

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JOHN M. HALE

An interview with Clarence B. Hale
1712 South St. Louis Ave, Tulsa, Okla.

Clarence Bruner Hale is the son of John M. Hale, chief deputy U.S. marshal under presidents Harrison and Cleveland, now living in Joplin, Missouri.

John M. Hale served as deputy U.S. marshal from about 1890 or 1891 until about 1898 or 1899, being stationed at Guthrie during his term of office. He was born in Richmond, Virginia, in 1860 and came to Indian Territory from St. Louis in 1883. He worked in an agency store at Pawhuska for a while, then later started the first trading post at Hominy, Oklahoma, giving the town its name after Hominy Creek, which had been named by the Indians. His partner in the store was an Osage Indian, the father of Joseph Matthews, author of Wah-kon-tah.

Hale made the run into the Sac and Fox country in 1889, securing a claim which adjoined the Chandler townsite on the west. Part of his claim was cut up into town lots and is now part of the town of Chandler.

In making the run Hale rode a swift thoroughbred horse. He rode until he crossed Bell Cow Creek. When he came up on

the east bank of the creek he found a cornfield. Knowing that the Indians worked only the best land, he staked his claim in the cornfield. Soon he heard someone saying, "What are you doing on my claim?" Turning around Hale saw a man riding a horse apparently dripping with sweat. Hale was shrewd enough to quickly lift the horse's tail. Underneath the horse was perfectly dry. Knowing that a sweating horse would be wet all over Hale said, "Brother, the next time you pour water on your horse to make him sweat be sure to pour it under his tail too." Members of Hale's party were witnesses to the fact that he had been first on the ground and staked his claim so the Sooner had to give up and leave the claim.

Hale built a log house on his claim in Chandler and later erected a stone house which is still standing. The house which he erected in Pawhuska is also still standing. It has been converted into a two-story house, the old part having been lifted and a story built under it. It is now known as the Matthews house.

During the years he lived among the Osages Hale came to know them well, spoke their language, and was a highly respected man among them. They gave him an Osage name meaning "black beard." When he first came among them, some of the Osages

wanted to engage him in wrestling. Hale was a skilled athlete, trained in wrestling, and boxing and familiar with jiu jitsu. In a match with the Osages he threw two of them and beat one in a foot race. After that he always had their respect. They wanted to adopt him into the tribe but he would never consent to the adoption.

C. B. Hale was born in Pawhuska in 1886. When he was about a year old he had an experience which he thinks is probably unique among white people. He was permitted to beat their drum during an Osage war dance. His father was absent from home at the time and his mother was unfamiliar with the Osage language so when they came and wanted to take the boy to the war dance she consented and went along with them. As a rule white people did not even attend the war dance, much less take part in it. When his father returned the Osages wanted two hundred and fifty ponies for the honor they had conferred upon the child. Hale then had to explain that the mother had not understood what they had meant, otherwise she would not have permitted it. Needless to say they did not get the two hundred and fifty ponies.

C. B. Hale related how Deputy Bill Tilghman captured Bill

Dalton of the notorious outlaw Daltons, in Hot Springs.

Dalton was in a bathhouse waiting to take a bath when Tilghman, wearing a kind of disguise, came in. Tilghman had previously spotted Dalton who failed to recognize Tilghman in his partial disguise. When Dalton entered his bathroom Tilghman asked the attendant for the room next to Dalton's. Here Tilghman stepped up where he could keep an eye on Dalton who was unaware that he was being watched. When Dalton started to leave his room Tilghman stepped out and taking him by surprise slipped the handcuffs on him.

C.B. Hale has in his possession the gun taken from Dalton at that time. He also has his father's marshal's badge.

C.B. Hale was quartermaster sergeant of Company B of the Oklahoma National Guard which was sent in 1905 to the 101 ranch to prevent the killing of buffalo. The Miller brothers were preparing for a great celebration at the 101 ranch and wanted to hire some of the National Guard to protect the ranch from needless damage, promising the boys ten dollars per day. Other citizens from over the state protested the use of the Guard by private interests. After an appeal to

the President it was decided that the buffalo on the ranch were badly in need of protection so the Guard was sent to protect the buffalo from slaughter, but it was at Government expense and the boys did not receive the ten dollars per day promised by Miller Brothers.