

HUGHES, JAMES HENRY. INTERVIEW 13251

228

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

Field Worker's name Levina R. Beavers

This report made on (date) March 18 1938

1. Name James Henry Hughes

2. Post Office Address Broken Bow, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) Frank Clark's place

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 7 Year 1864

5. Place of birth Arkansas

6. Name of Father Henry Hughes Place of birth Alabama

Other information about father He was a farmer.

7. Name of Mother Susan Hughes Place of birth Kosie, Alabama

Other information about mother Housekeeper.

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 3.

HUGHES, JAMES HENRY.

INTERVIEW.

13251

Levina Beavers  
Investigator  
March 18, 1938

Interview with James Henry Hughes,  
Broken Bow, Oklahoma.

I was born in Arkansas in 1864. My mother was Susan Hughes, born in 1842, and my father was Henry Hughes, born in 1847, both born in Alabama.

My uncle, Jack Childers, helped drive the Choctaw Indians to their homes in this country. My father's mother's brother was raised also in Alabama. My father's brother, Andy Hughes, wanted to come but he did not get to do so. I heard my uncle Jack tell about it. He helped cut out this Military Road into this Territory in McCurtain County. Many Indians died on the road and they did not have any way to bury them so they would dig enough so it would hide the body and then come on, leaving their dead.

I have lived on the Arkansas edge of the Territory eight miles from the place they call Dogtown. I know and saw many things that happened among the Indians. There were two white men came over to Indian Territory, James Bailey and his son, Roy Bailey, sometime in 1897. Two Indian young men by the name of Wallace Fobb and Lewis Byington saw the men having a gun

HUGHES, JAMES HENRY.

INTERVIEW.

13251

2

and the Indians wanted this gun and they went out there where the Baileys were at work making staves and these white men did not want to sell this gun. Fobb and Byington just backed off and shot these men. When they began to shoot, Roy Bailey ran and got behind a tree and sat down. The two Indians followed him and shot him, killing him as he sat there. They then left and went home and it was two weeks before the Baileys were missed by the folks. An Indian by the name of David Wilson was out hunting for ponies one morning and found these dead men and came and reported to the County Sheriff, Daniel Hudson. After sheriff was notified he gathered up all the Indians and questioned them. These young Indians were there. One had his belt on full of cartridges. The officers took one and it was the same size cartridge that killed these men. They were arrested and questioned and they owned up that they did the killing and were sent to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, for 99 years. Lewis Byington died in the penitentiary after ten years. Wallace <sup>Fobb</sup> came back twelve years after but died with T. B. shortly after. The men who were questioned included W. K. Dollerhide, Calvin Howell, James Earnest, Daniel Hudson, Thomas Amos

HUGHES, JAMES HENRY.

INTERVIEW.

13251

3

and Joel Dyer, all of whom are dead now.

There was lots of killing and stealing in those days but the sheriff would get everyone and never did have to kill any of the thieves or murderers. He would get them alive and turn them over to the United States Court at Antlers, Indian Territory.

I live on a place that is called Frank H. Clark's five miles northeast of Broken Bow, Oklahoma, where I am farming, five miles from Beavers Bend.