

HUDSON, ISOM.

INTERVIEW

13679

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

HUDSON, ISOM. INTERVIEW.

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Field Worker's name Levina R. Beavers,

This report made on (date) April 9, 1933 1933

1. Name Isom Hudson

2. Post Office Address Eagletown

3. Residence address (or location) 2½ miles east of Eagletown

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day 29 Year 1890

5. Place of birth Near Eagletown

6. Name of Father Daniel Hudson Place of birth Near Eagletown

Other information about father Sheriff

7. Name of Mother Sallie Hudson Place of birth Mountain-fork

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

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Investigator, Levina R. Beavers,
April 9, 1938.

Interview with Isom Hudson,
Eagle town.

The old ferry on Mountain Fork River was controlled, owned and operated by a man named Mambbee, who was a ferryman for many years. Just one hundred and fifty yards from a place south of the bridge on the landing on the west bank of the Mountain Fork River, Mambbee's home was located, just a half a quarter from the west landing, and was a log cabin. I remember passing his cabin, going to see my mother's father, who lived two miles farther down the road. Mr. Mambbee had large apple trees in his yard and other fruit trees. We crossed on this ferry boat a good many times. My grandfather, Isom Going, married Mambbee's sister, Akonatema Mambbee, so we visited them. Mambbee operated the ferryboat until 1895 when he died and then Governor Gardner had charge of it and had a negro, Joe Wimbley, to operate it for many years. Then Governor Gardner's heirs operated it until the

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high bridge came through in 1922. This is a ferry on which horse thieves and robbers would meet their bad luck. The ferry man wouldn't let anybody cross on a ferry boat when the river was very high.

There was a ford on Mountain Fork within two miles of the place where it empties into Little River; within a quarter of a mile of the place where Mountain Fork empties in there is a ford on Little River but there is no ferry boat landing. The Indians call this crossing Soke Lawa Hene Akocha, meaning "Heap lots crossing."

The ford on Mountain Fork River at Hocha town, to which place Father moved in 1890, has a very large rock lying right in the middle of the river and when the water was over that rock, the Indians wouldn't go into it for it was past fording. The only boat that was there was owned by a Choctaw Indian of the name of Burnett Lewis. This boat was made out of a large pine log, hewed down flat out on all four sides with the inside dug out and squared and smoothed until it looked like a plain long wood box and looked to be

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about twelve feet long, hewed and smoothed until it was pretty. That is the boat that everybody crossed the river in; it was made by Burnett Lewis' father many years before.

Burnett Lewis lived on the bank of his dugout landing until he died in 1908. The ford was just fifty yards south of the low water bridge. Hobson D. Beavers owns the place now; he has built a fine mansion there and has a nice little farm, raising cattle and hogs, right on the river place.