

HUDSON, RUFUS.

INTERVIEW

13685

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

#13685

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INTERVIEW.

Field Worker's name Levina R. Beavers

This report made on (date) April 15, 1938

1. Name Rufus Hudson

2. Post Office Address Smithville, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 2 1/2 miles south of Smithville.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month June Day 10 Year 1879

5. Place of birth 2 1/2 miles south of Smithville.

6. Name of Father George Hudson Place of birth Eagletown, Oklahoma.

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother Susan Hudson Place of birth Smithville, Oklahoma.

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 \_\_\_\_\_.

An Interview with Rufus Hudson, Smithville, Oklahoma.  
By - Levina R. Beavers, Investigator.  
April 15, 1938.

Rufus Hudson was born in 1879 near Smithville where he lives now. His father, George Hudson, was born near Eagletown in 1840 and his mother, Susan Hudson, was born near Smithville in 1841. This little McCurtain County town is situated in the northeastern part of the county about two and a half miles from the County line between LeFlore and McCurtain Counties and is in the heart of the healthiest region of the state. While as a settlement, it is among the oldest in the county, yet it never assumed the dignity of a village until William L. Burkhart, with his Indian bride, moved there in 1903. Will Burkhart, who married the daughter of Plemon McClure, was a native of Indiana, a good citizen, a man of great energy and business ability, and it may be truthfully said that it was because of Mr. Burkhart's progressive spirit that Smithville was founded and has become one of the thriving villages on the county map. Smithville and the county, too, have missed Mr. Burkhart since his tragic death many years ago. He was thrown from his horse and almost instantly killed.

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The town of Smithville is an old place of some historic interest, located on the old Doaksville road; it was a stopping place for travelers in the old days. The Presbyterian Church was established early as a place of worship for the Choctaw Indians at Smithville; it is still in existence, but with a much better church building than the first one.

The first Choctaw payments, which distributed thousands of dollars to the Indians, were made at Smithville, and it was one of the first places at which a neighborhood school was established under Government supervision.