Date for week: August 29, 1936

District Office: WICHITA

District assigned: Hutchinson
County: Kansas
State: Reno

If you are attaching editorial copy to this report, fill out (A).
If you are merely reporting progress, fill out (B).

Number of words: 225

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Special topic assigned: Former Slave, James Ellis Pope

(Township, village, town, quarter, or city, etc.)

Questionnaire categories incomplete or missing; list below with reasons for omission, i.e. whether material is still to be covered or whether the questions are not applicable to your territory.

Part of assigned territory you are now investigating.

Special categories of Questionnaire you are working on (list below)

Signed: E. Jean Poole

FIELD WORKER

Hugh Amick,
District Supervisor
James Ellis Pope, age seventy-one years, lives at 920 East Tenth Street, Hutchinson, Kansas.

James Pope was just one year old when the war was over. He was born on the plantation of Richard Pope in Warren County, Kentucky, fifteen miles from Woodborn. James' mother, Eliza (Ray) Pope, was a slave, but his father, Richard Pope, was a free negro.

Just before the old master, Richard Pope, died, he gave James' grandmother, Tilda Pope, one hundred and sixty acres of land, but after the Master's death, his son demanded that Tilda return the land to them, or give up her baby boy. Tilda refused to give the land and so they freed her son, who was James Pope's father.

James' grandmother on his mother's side was Nancy Ray. When her master died, he gave her one hundred acres of land and at her death, her daughter, Eliza Ray, James' mother, inherited the land. This was at the close of the war. So Nancy Ray Pope, her husband, Richard Pope, and family moved on the one hundred acres and his mother lived there until her death in 1919. James Pope came to Hutchinson at the age of forty-five years.

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Source: Interview by E. Jean Foote
THE AMERICAN GUIDE - Unwritten History
Hutchinson, Kansas

FORMER SLAVE, James Ellis Pope
by: E. Jean Foote

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Personal interview by E. Jean Foote