

PERKIN, SHELBY

INTERVIEW

#5911

Pete W. Cole  
Field Worker  
May 20, 1937

Interview with  
Shelby Perkin (age 49)  
Caney, Oklahoma

I was born near Caney, Oklahoma, on March 25, 1888. My father was King Perkins, who died in 1891, and my mother, Serena Perkins, died in 1915. After I became an orphan, Ephus Moore, whom I adopted as "Grandpa", though I do not know whether or not there is blood relation, made a home for me with him until I was about the age of eight years. I then wandered here and there in the Choctaw communities until I was sent to the Indian Government School at Armstrong Academy. R. L. L. Morley was the superintendent at that time, and Abe Barker, principal. I went there for six terms and afterward I went to Chilocco Indian School, another Government school. I went there for five years, and completed the eighth grade. I qualified, and learned to be a printer.

I obtained a job in Oklahoma City, after leaving Chilocco. I worked there for seven years, until 1917 during the Mexican border trouble, when I enlisted in

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the Cavalry. When I returned home I was drafted into service during the world war, sent to training camp at Leon Springs, Texas, and later to Camp Travis. I was a member of 53rd Field Artillery Texas, 18th Division, have served with Co. G. 42nd Division, 142nd Division, 142nd Infantry, U. S. G. Later transferred to 303 Cavalry U. S. A. 3 Battery Service. I was discharged from active service in May, 1919, and came home. Later I enlisted in the Company B, Oklahoma National Guard, 180th Infantry, and served as Sergeant until 1934 when I was discharged, and became a member of Civilian Conservation Corp. Enrolled October 1, 1934, at Wilburton Oklahoma. My type of work was forestry of performance. While in this service the different types of work were all satisfactory until March 30, 1936. I was discharged at Bohawk Park, Tulsa, and am now a private citizen.

I have been married three times and have three children by the second wife. I have one boy at Goodland Indian School near Hugo, Oklahoma, and two girls at Antlers Catholic School. My second wife died in 1929. I married again in 1937.

I did not have any place to live after my first marriage and drifted here and lived here, but on the

second marriage I bought a home in Caddo, Oklahoma. I lived there and worked until the house, by some unknown origin, caught fire and burned up. Later I moved out on the farm and have resided here since.

I am taking a home study course in painting and have drawn several pictures and am still taking instructions at present.