

EBERLY, J. P.

INTERVIEW

10361

112

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

BERLY, J. P. - INTERVIEW.

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Field Worker's name Robert W. Small

This report made on (date) March 15, 1938

1. Name J. P. Eberly

2. Post Office Address Newkirk, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) Same

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month August Day 5 Year 1868

5. Place of birth Indiana

6. Name of Father George Eberly Place of birth New Jersey

7. Name of Mother Barbara Camp Eberly Place of birth New Jersey

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 2

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Small, Robert W. - Investigator.
Indian Pioneer History-S-149.
March 15, 1938.

Interview with J. P. Eberly
Newkirk, Oklahoma.

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I was born August 5th, 1868, in the State of Indiana. In 1878 I came with my parents to Kansas. In 1891 I went to the town of Skiatook, Indian Territory, where I stayed about six months and worked at different jobs in and around the little town.

On September 16th, 1893, I entered the race for a claim in the Cherokee Strip. I made the Run in a wagon and secured the Southwest Quarter of Sec. 5, Twp. 28 N., Rge. 2 East, which was not a choice claim, but since I saw men on horse-back running all over the country ahead of me, I decided I had better take what I could get.

I built a small two-room house and some sheds for stock on the claim and drilled a well nineteen feet deep for water. I had a good span of mules which I kept until they were thirty-two years old, and in addition I had several head of horses and about twenty head of cattle.

I did not experience the hardships that some of the settlers went through, as I had a little money when I came

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to the country and everything was cheap and it did not require much for me to live on. I had plenty of grass for my stock, and I seemed to be in a section that received more rain than they got in most parts of the Cherokee Strip. I made some grain every year that many did not make who lived farther west and farther from the Arkansas River.

In 1894 I planted twenty-five acres in what was called May wheat and twenty acres of Fulse wheat. The May wheat was cut and threshed before the Fulse wheat was ripe, and the May wheat made an average of 32 bushels per acre, and the Fulse wheat made an average of 20 bushels per acre; this was a much better turnout than others made who lived a few miles west of me. I also made a good yield of kaffir every year, and in fact everything I planted made from a fair to a good yield every year. My surplus of grain was sold for very fair prices during the first few years that so many farmers were destitute of grain and feed stuff for their stock.

I also put out an orchard that bore an abundance of fruit, such as apples, peaches, pears, plums, berries etc.

In 1894 I bought a binder for \$92.00, paying the cash for it. Machinery of all kinds was very cheap then com-

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pared to modern prices.

I raised hogs, cattle, horses and mules and had a very good stock of poultry that did their part in helping supply the family table with food.

I can't say that I ever experienced a hard year on my claim at any time, and learned that it was not such a bad claim after all. I still own the land, although I do not live on it as I am not able to farm it myself.

There were a few antelope in this section when I came here and lots of coyotes and a few prairie chickens. The Arkansas River had lots of fish in it too.