

ELLIOTT, O. P. (MRS.)

INTERVIEW #8407

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INTERVIEW

Form A-(S-149)

BIOGRAPHY FORM

4/9/47

ELLIOTT, O. P. (MRS.)

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Eunice M. Mayer

This report made on (date) August 26, 1937

1. Name Mrs. O. P. Elliott

2. Post Office Address Mangum, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

5. Place of birth Nashville, Tennessee.

6. Name of Father Laird Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

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

7. Name of Mother \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

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 Mrs. O. P. Elliott, Mangum, Okla.  
By - Eunice M. Mayer, Field Worker, S-149.  
August 26, 1937.

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Mrs. O. P. Elliott was a school-teacher at the Gainesville, Texas High School, when her parents emigrated to Greer County in 1889. She joined them in the spring. Her father was a stockman and located on a farm ten miles south of Navajo.

Born at Nashville, Tennessee, Mrs. Elliott later emigrated to Sherman, Texas, with her parents. She attended high school at Gainesville and also attended Cook County Normal School. Later she taught at Plew's Valley, Dunbar and Warren, all County schools.

In 1898 she was married to O. P. Elliott at Altus. The couple made their home in Mangum where Mr. Elliott was assistant United States Commissioner. Later he was Court Clerk and the publisher of an early-day Greer County newspaper. This paper was named the "News".

Mr. Elliott practiced law until his death in 1932.

Side saddles and riding habits with long skirts which almost touched the ground were affected by young women

of the day. They were far from comfortable, but very fashionable.

One spring the Salt Fork overflowed, and more than one hundred head of cattle belonging to Mrs. Elliott's father were swept away in the flood. Calves penned in the lot were turned loose and plunged in the river to swim to the other side where their mothers were marooned.

By following the calves in a boat, the men of the family were able to locate quite a few of the animals. They followed the calves that were able to locate their mothers by instinct, and returned both animals to the corral when the flood waters had receded.

Fish fries on Otter Creek, southeast of Dunbar, were enjoyed by many settlers. Everyone was a good angler in those days and fish abounded in the streams.

An uprising of the Kiowa Indians in 1889 caused the settlers to bar their windows and doors. This uprising threw the whole countryside into a state of siege. Mrs. Elliott was teaching school at Warren, northeast of Altus at the time.

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Under the leadership of Komalty, the Kiowas went on the warpath because a herd of pinto ponies belonging to the tribe had strayed into the country, and the Indians were unable to recover them. They accused the white settlers of making away with these ponies.

After returning to their reservation the Indians held a Council of War, but limited themselves to rounding up and killing a few beeves belonging to the whites. Word was sent to the Federal troops at El Reno and Fort Sill in regard to the threatened Indian uprising and steps were taken to adjust the difficulty between the Indians and white settlers.

Komalty was appeased when a favorite pony was returned to him. The horse had simply wandered away and was found in a thicket near Red River, east of Navajo. Settlers had been genuinely alarmed, however, and had been prepared for an invasion for more than a week.

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