

SPRIGGS, E. S.

INTERVIEW

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W. T. Holland,
Interviewer,
Sept. 20, 1937.

An Interview With E. S. Spriggs,
An old-timer. Tulsa, Oklahoma.

I am a native of Georgia, having been born there September 27, 1860. I had a brother who had come West, stopping in Arkansas. So in 1890, I decided I, too, would come out this way, first to see my brother, and next to explore the Indian Territory. I was a carpenter and thought I might be able to get plenty of work building in this new country. I had taught school in Georgia, besides farming and doing carpenter work; however, at this time, 1890, I was interested in building business houses, and knowing the new country was opening up then, and especially after 1892, I was sure I could find work in my trade here.

I saw and visited with my brother a while, then came over in Indian Territory, first stopping where Sallisaw now is. There I built the first store house in the town of Sallisaw. It was built for Charlie Fry, a Cherokee Indian. A man by the name of Crittenden had a few groceries in a room of his house, but there were

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no store buildings until I built this building for Fry. It was a building, frame construction, of about 20 x 40 feet and was used by Kip Stovall, who put in a small stock of drugs. I first taught school at Hanson. From there to Sallisaw, Hanson was a mile or so east of Sallisaw, on the Iron Mountain Railroad where they had built a school building and needed a teacher. Having had some experience as a teacher I got the job, and taught the first school at Hanson. The building was a small affair, built of rough, sawed cottonwood lumber. The seats were made from slabs or puncheon with holes bored in them and pegs driven in, which formed the legs, no backs to the seats and no desks in front. Rather crude, still the children seemed to be interested and did well in their studies. It was a subscription school for both whites and Indians. There were some whites in here then. My attendance averaged between twenty-five and thirty pupils. Reading, writing and arithmetic constituted the studies I taught. No examination was required, and while I held a certificate in Georgia, of course no school system was in existence here then.

Hanson at that time, 1894, (I was there about three years and taught three terms there) had two stores, a post office, and a church. Presbyterian, which was about one-half mile north of town.

I engaged in the building trade all my life and worked in Oklahoma City, Muskogee, Watonga, and other towns.

I used to hunt quite a lot in the early days. I've hunted bears in the Kiamichi Mountains. I never killed a bear, but others in our party did. We had well trained hunting dogs. In hunting three shots meant a bear and two shots indicated a deer.

Small Game

Wrens--One seen at 10

Loisins--One seen at 10

Wren

Cattle--One seen

Wrens

Intruders--One seen at 10

Wrens--One seen at 10

Wrens--One seen at 10

and other: ...