

STITTS, ELLA COLL.

INTERVIEW

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Louise S. Barnes,  
Investigator.

March 28, 1938.

Interview with Ella Cole Stitts,  
Dover, Oklahoma.

I was born November 9, 1872, in Missouri and came to Oklahoma with my mother to join my father in July, 1889, after the Territorial Opening. We lived on our homestead located on Turkey Creek, close to where Dover now stands. I was married on this same farm and have always lived in the same community.

I remember well when the Strip was opened for settlement. We and several others went to see the run in a wagon but we got back of the line because we were not interested in making the run, just there to look on. When the signal was given we stayed behind and it sounded like a cyclone, everyone going and everyone for themselves.

Dances were held in those times quite often as that was the biggest entertainment we had. The people were not thickly settled and two or three of us would get on horses, each going a different direction, telling everyone we came to, that there was to be a dance and where and when. It was not difficult to

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guess what the people were going to wear. Since everyone traveled by horseback, the girls rode side-saddles. The dances were always a success.

I went to school the first few terms in a picket schoolhouse that was made from blackjack slabs, running up and down. All the pupils then usually rode horseback because they always had quite a distance to go. They only taught to Grammar grades then.

I will always remember the days when my friends would come to see me horseback, for that is the way we went everywhere. I often wonder if the generation of today enjoys life as we did.