



BIOGRAPHY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma  
STROUD, HERSHEL INTERVIEW 4517

Field Worker's name Ida A. Merwin

This report made on (date) June 21 1937

1. Name Hershel Stroud

2. Post Office Address Perry, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) N. Fifth St.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year 1880

5. Place of birth Kansas City

6. Name of Father Ephriam Stroud Place of birth Illinois

Other information about father Dead - buried in Grace Hill Cemetery  
Perry, Oklahoma.

7. Name of Mother Mary (Watson) Stroud Place of birth Tennessee

Other information about mother Lives in home with Hershel.

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 \_\_\_\_\_.

Ida A. Merwin  
Investigator  
June 21, 1937

Interview with  
Hershel Stroud  
Perry, Oklahoma

My parents, Ephriam J. and Mary Stroud moved from Illinois to Kansas City, Missouri, in 1876. They made their home there until the opening of the Cherokee Strip in 1893.

Father made the Run starting from a point four miles east of Orlando and staked a claim seven miles north and one mile west of the town site of Perry in Noble County.

We made our home on this farm until 1908 when we sold out and moved to Perry where Father passed away in 1920. Mother now lives with me and my two children in Perry.

I was thirteen years old when my father made the Run to the Cherokee Strip and staked a claim.

During the fall and winter we built our house which was dug in the hillside and was about twenty-four feet long; the outer walls were built of sod and stone and the roof was made of sod.

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To the north of our home was the ranch known as the 4-D Ranch, which was operated by a man from Texas. On farther north was the Honeywell Ranch, operated by a Kansas cattleman.

In the north part of what is now Noble County and in the south part of Kay County was located the I. Carroll Ranch; this man Carroll moved part of his cattle farther north to better grass land, leaving behind some of the cattle. He told the Miller Brothers that they could have any cattle left behind.

As his brand was I.C the Miller Brothers could easily convert it to 101 and the cattle which they rounded up were branded and after being branded were their cattle.

Near the 4-D Ranch a trail known as the Arkansas City trail ran in a north western direction from Fort Reno, past Red Rock to Arkansas City, Kansas.

Pasture land could be rented for 5 cents per acre.

The seasons seemed to be more suitable then for the raising of crops than they are now; whatever was

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planted would "make" with less care than it does today and crops were more sure to mature.

Our trading point was Perry and as I remember now the post office was located then where the water tank now stands.

I have had many dealings and associations with the Indians, especially with the Otoes. Upon one occasion when an Otoe woman lay as a corpse and they were feasting, a plate was prepared from the feast and placed underneath the casket of the dead woman. All personal belongings of the Indian who has died are given away, mostly to close friends, as the relatives seldom ever take anything.

I have a handbag made from woven grass which has wool designs on it, also a photograph of the woman who owned it; her name was Martha Pettitt, daughter of Blaine Faw Faw; she died five or six years ago and her husband gave me the handbag and photograph.

Another odd custom of the Otoes is that when a

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couple is married the wife does not speak to her husband's parents and the husband does not speak to the parents of his wife. If they wish to make an inquiry the newly-wedded couple ask each other and in turn each converses with his or her parents and then make answer to the one who made the inquiry.

Noble County was named for John W. Noble who was appointed Secretary of the Interior under President Benjamin Harrison and came to Oklahoma in the interests of the Government.

I also have in my possession an atlas of the early days of Oklahoma.