

RADCLIFFE, OLIVER PERRY. INTERVIEW 7314

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

RADCLIFF, OLIVER PERRY

INTERVIEW

#7314

Field Worker's name Charline M. CulbertsonThis report made on (date) August 16, 1937

1. Name Oliver Perry Radcliff
2. Post Office Address Pittsburg, Oklahoma
3. Residence address (or location) One block south of Main St.
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year 1862
5. Place of birth Indiana
6. Name of Father _____ 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 3 sheets.

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Charline M. Culbertson,
Interviewer.
August 16, 1937.

An Interview with Oliver Perry Radcliff
Pittsburg, Oklahoma.

I was born in Indiana in the year 1862, coming to the Indian Territory in 1884, and locating at Stringtown in the Choctaw Nation. We came from Johnson County, Texas, in a covered wagon. On our trip to the Territory there was a little negro boy who kept following us on horseback and we had to feed him as he was always on hand at meal time. I decided he had run away from home or maybe had stolen the pony he was riding so as an excuse to get rid of him I told him to turn back to Dallas and sell the pony and I would wait for him to return. The outcome was that he did not wait.

I had not planned to stop in the Territory but the night we camped at Stringtown a freight train broke through the bridge on North Boggy Creek and the train crew wanted all men with teams to help transfer the freight. The work lasted for some time. After the wreck a small boy of about ten years of age crawled from the wreckage and asked the brakeman to lend him his lantern because he had lost 35 cents in the box car.

The boy took the lantern and found his money and started on his journey by foot. The name of this boy was never learned. When this work was over I began working for a saw-mill near by. Our house was

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a little box house near the mill. Our furnishings were all home made. The bed was made in crib style. We cooked over the fire place for some time after we came.

Dr. Haynes, Mr. Garner and a Mr. Simpson had general stores in Stringtown at this time. There were twenty-five stores there. Lumber was very cheap. Timber was much larger than it is today. Logs were never cut then that would not make twelve in a board.

I was a blacksmith in Stringtown for sixteen years and did some work for the Indians, however, other than that I had no special friends among the Indians.

There were no general stores near our community, such as the Miller, Rob and Scotter ranches. They traveled around with a load of cattle a year. The nearest store was at the Miller ranch and the Miller ranch was a Mr. Remond. The Miller ranch was fifteen miles east of Stringtown.

We had subscription schools and the parents paid \$1.50 for each child they sent to school. The school was one big frame room where they also had church. Some children had home made desks while others sat on log benches. Good programs were also held here for our entertainment which was free to the public. Many enjoyable evenings were spent.

Our district was mostly Methodist. Our summer camp meetings were held out under a brush arbor. Families came from miles around bringing

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their supplies and camping there, for two weeks at a time.

Air feed was shipped in over the M. K. & T. railroad. Corn was 60 cents a bushel. The Indian families raised little Tom Fuller patches. The patches were planted by the women while the men hunted and fished.