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INDEX CARDS

Indian Territory-1887
Ranch-Sac and Fox
Opening-Cherokee Strip
Perry
Perkins
Indians-Poncas

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

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Field Worker's name Ida A. MarvinThis report made on (date) July 22 19371. Name F. E. Braithwaite2. Post Office Address Perry, Oklahoma3. Residence address (or location) 15 S. 7th Street.4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 29 Year 18725. Place of birth Jeffersonville, Ohio.6. Name of Father Albert Braithwaite Place of birth W. Virginia

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Ella Griffith Place of birth Ohio

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 5.

Interview with F. E. Braithwaite.
Perry, Oklahoma.

F. E. Braithwaite, son of Albert and Ella Griffith. Braithwaite, was born September 29, 1872, at Jeffersonville, Ohio.

Mr. Braithwaite states:

In 1887 we came to the Indian Territory locating in the Sac and Fox and Iowa reservation not far from the town of Perkins. I was then fifteen years old. Soon afterwards I went to work for Jim Hurt who was a farmer and cattle man.

He handled cattle quite extensively and also put up hay for the market.

As the cattle work took us over a large portion of the country, I soon learned the trails and lay of the country so well that I acted as a guide for many.

In September, 1893, I entered the race at the opening of the Cherokee Strip, starting on the south line near Stillwater. I staked a claim but did not file on it. Instead I turned my rights to a friend who filed and proved up on same. Shortly after the start I came to a small creek or branch called Cherry Creek which had very steep banks. The pony I was riding being a good jumper I forced him to jump this and proceeded on in the race.

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Father also made the run starting near Orlando and staked a claim in Garfield County near where the town of Hayward is now. Father is dead, but Mother still lives on this farm.

A strange thing about Father and me making this race was that neither knew of the other being in the race. My work previous to the opening had kept me in Texas part of the time and I had not been at home for some time, therefore, did not know that he had planned to make the race.

In July, 1893, my boss, Mr. Hurt, with his partner(I cannot recall his name) moved some cattle and machinery in the country where the town of Perry is now located, expecting to make hay. We mowed the grass on the land that is now the town of Perry. The Government soldiers seized the cattle and machinery and ordered us out. Later they turned this property back to Mr. hurt with the understanding he move immediately. I took a hay-baler and hid it in a creek, and then we took some machinery and the cattle out, leaving two mowing machines

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to be taken later. When we returned for them, they had smashed them to pieces. This was on the land near where the water tower is now, in south Perry.

After the opening, I helped haul hay from Perkins to Perry, which was then a tent town as at that time only a few small buildings had been erected there. The trails over which we hauled the hay were very rough. They were across the country, as no section lines had been laid out yet. We used four horses or mules to each wagon and could only haul about forty bales at a load.

Shortly afterwards I went to help my father on his claim, and have been in and near Perry since.

About three years ago I opened a second-hand store on South Seventh Street which I still operate, and I live in the same building.

At one time when we were bringing some cattle by railroad from the grass ranges of Texas to the

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Territory lands, we lost several head enroute. At the unloading point, north of where Ponca City is now, a number of Indians gathered and traded us blankets for the dead animals. They would use these for food.

At one time I had in my possession thirteen of these blankets, I do not have any now.

My bed while working with the cattle was wherever dark overtook us, so I made use of these blankets for saddle blankets and a bed for me at night. We usually had a cook shack, that was moved as we moved the cattle, to provide meals for us but had to look out for our own beds. Many nights I slept on a blanket with my saddle for my pillow.