

FORMAN, D. D. INTERVIEW

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

FORMAN, D. D. INTERVIEW

2319

Field Worker's name Charline M. Culbertson

This report made on (date) August 25th, 1937

1. Name D. D. Forman

2. Post Office Address Hartshorne, Oklahoma  
of Main St.

3. Residence address (or location) 1 block north & 1 block east/

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month --- Day --- Year 1845

5. Place of birth Columbus, Ohio

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 four.

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Charline M. Culbertson  
Field Worker  
August 25, 1937

I was born in Columbus, Ohio, in the year of 1845 and came to the line of Indian Territory and Arkansas at the age of twenty-six in the year 1871. We came in a covered wagon. Our home was located fifteen miles south of Fort Smith, Arkansas, and was a box house and near a sawmill. We made what furniture we had such as chairs, tables and a clothes press.

We would get all our supplies from Fort Smith. Our salt was brought down the Arkansas River in a little stern-wheeled boat from St. Louis, Missouri. It was brought in at the most urgent time, which was hog-killing time, and then we would buy enough salt to last through the summer.

Our food we raised, only what few supplies we would get at Fort Smith. We would keep two lots of hogs in the woods and would go out and feed them corn every other day to try to tame them. After we would tame them some, we would drive them up and kill them along as we needed them.

We had our summer camp meeting out under a brush arbor and would depend on good weather to have it, sometime during the drouth. There would be the Choctaws and whites,

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all bringing beef, corn and all sharing together. The food was always spread together and the Choctaw would point his finger at the white man and this was his invitation to come to the meal.

Our school was a little box school house. They taught reading, writing and arithmetic. There were no desks but we had log benches. The only book was what they called the Blue Back Speller.

There were very few laws in the Territory but I remember on one occasion I had a very sick friend across the line who wanted some wine and it was breaking the Choctaw law to send wine over in the Territory but on this occasion I did send some wine over, but nothing was ever said about it.

Tom Bailey, a white man, was a sort of Councilor among many of the Choctaws. When they were in trouble or wanted to sell their cattle and hogs or most anything they needed advice about they would go to him.

Cattle were driven to Sedalia, Missouri, which was the shipping point into the market at St. Louis.

We crossed the Arkansas River at Moore's Rock and would stop over night with a friend there and he would give us shelter and take care of our cattle for the night. We

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would never take a cent for this accommodation. Cattle were cheap in those days.

On our trips buying cattle we carried our money in bags. We took gold and silver, as Indians would not take a check or paper money. When we came to the place we wanted to buy from we would stay all night with the Indian family and never say anything about buying until the next morning. Then the talk of buying would come and the Indian would have his hogs and cattle up in a pen and then would drive them out one at a time and I would ask "How much for him?"

Maybe the bigger and better hogs or cattle would be cheaper than the poor and much smaller ones, as the Indians would price cattle and hogs as to their age and not according to their weight. I paid two bits for many nice hogs.

We did much fire hunting and even though there was a great deal of game, this kind of hunting was fine sport.

We would go at night and two men and one extra horse would carry our pine. One man carried the gun and the other carried the firepan or skillet with a long fork on one end. This would be about eight feet long. In the pan would be the pine we would burn. This was carried

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up over the shoulder and you would see the animal's eye with the fire. Each animal's eye looks different and a hunter could tell what animal it was in this way. Also you could tell a human's eye. A wolf was very smart; you could only see one of his eyes. We killed many deer on these trips.