

HOLLEY, DICK

INTERVIEW

#4097

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

HOLLEY, DICK.

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Field Worker's name Glen F. Curd.

This report made on (date) May 20, 1957. 1957

1. Name Mr. Dick Holley.

2. Post Office Address Route #3, Hobart, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) \_\_\_\_\_

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month October Day 25 Year 1869.

5. Place of birth Parker County, Texas.

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.

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Glen F. Curd,  
Field Worker,  
May 20, 1937.

An Interview With Dick Holley,  
Hobart, Oklahoma.

I was born in Parker County, Texas, October 25, 1869. My father died when I was thirteen years old. My father was a farmer and I went to work as a ranch hand for a fellow named Kopeland and worked till the summer of 1886, and then came to Greer County which was then in dispute between Texas and Oklahoma and the Government but I knew if I settled or squatted in Greer County that I would have a home either way the dispute was settled. As I had a brother-in-law here I came to see him. His name was Tom ~~Carett, and he was working for Charley Rumbes and Bud~~ Welston. There was not anything to that country but cattle and grass at that time and I got a job with these men. In the spring of 1887 we gathered all the cattle that the company owned and helped to drive them to Hunnewell, Kansas, where we sold them and came back.

In the fall of '87 I went to work for Addleman Bros. whose ranch was located on Turkey Creek close to the town site of Altus but there was no Altus then.

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That fall I helped to drive four thousand head of cattle to Albuquerque, New Mexico, but four thousand head was too much for one herd so we split them into two herds. I was with the last herd. We took the old Dodge City and Griffith Trail through Southern Texas. There were eleven cowboys in the gang, including the cook who stayed with the chuck wagon drawn by four mules. Our chuck wagon was equipped with two forty gallon barrels of water for cooking purposes and as we drove out on the prairies of Texas at the head of the Panhandle, we had to drive three days and nights without water.

When we did get to water we camped for seven days, for a rest. The grass was good and the cows would eat a while and drink and lie down and then some took a notion to want to wonder off; some of the boys would turn them in the direction that we wanted to go. The only fuel that we could find were dry cow chips, but we had plenty to eat as we had killed antelope and turkey on our way so we just ate and rested and kept the cows in order for seven days.

Then we picked up trail and went to Mustang Lake named after a bunch of wild horses that watered there.

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We had a two days and a night jump without water; then we got to Stinking Springs and from there on we had plenty of water.

We stayed in New Mexico till December 1885, and came back to Greer County in the Navajo Mountains. The county had begun to settle up and more people were moving in all the time. In the spring of '89 I went to King County, Texas, and went to work for the J. F. Cattle Company with Ike Peon as General Manager. I helped drive lots of cattle to the Osage country. There were a troop of soldiers on the North Fork of Red River, and another troop stationed on the Washita River. These soldiers were stationed at these places for the protection of the cattlemen and Indians in the Territory. One soldier usually accompanied the herd through to protect the cattlemen here from letting the herd stop and eat all the grass. If you did not give the Indians a beef if they asked for one they would stampede the herd. But if a soldier was along, the Indians wouldn't ask for any cattle at all.

I have always been a cattleman and cannot get away from it. We have an Old Settlers picnic every year at Altus where we gather around and try to live over the good old days, but there are not many of us left now.