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

METHVIN, J. J.

TWENTY- SECOND INTERVIEW.

9539

Field Worker's name Lillian CassawayThis report made on (date) December 31, 19371. Name Reverend J. J. Methvin2. Post Office Address Anadarko, Oklahoma.3. Residence address (or location) 709 West Alabama4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month December Day 17 Year 18465. Place of birth Jefferson, Georgia6. Name of Father John Methvin Place of birth Georgia7. Name of Mother Mourning Glover Methvin Place of birth Georgia

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 2.

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Lillian Cassaway,
Investigator,
December 31, 1938.

Interview With J. J. Methvin,
Anadarko, Oklahoma.

AN INCIDENT THAT ALMOST
CAUSED A WAR.

At the back of the Sneed & Collier Indian Trader's Store at the agency there was a large corral, enclosed by a high board fence; inside of this corral was a cistern for private use and there was a well in front of the store for public use.

The gate to the corral was always kept locked to keep the Indians out but one day Polang, a very quarrelsome Indian, managed to open the gate and he, with some of his friends, were getting water from the cistern. A clerk was sent to stop him but Polang gave the clerk a blow that sent him back into the store. The whole force came out and after some struggle got Polang and his friends out of the corral but in the struggle Polang was stabbed but not very seriously.

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In those days blood called for blood, so Polang went away swearing he would have revenge and it wasn't long until a young Indian came with the information that Polang was coming to fight. All the windows and doors of the store were locked and barred, and all the inmates took their stand at the windows and doors of the upper story. Late in the evening, knowing nothing of what had happened, I was passing the store when someone called to me.: "Reverend Methvin pray for us". The vigil was kept up all night but when morning came the trouble had quieted down and the clerks went about their work as usual. Agent Myers told me that he had labored all night to prevent any bloodshed.

It wasn't very long after that that Polang was killed by a white man in a quarrel over a stolen saddle, but because of his very quarrelsome nature, the other Indians did not resent his death, being rather relieved.