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Openings--Cherokee Strip
Stillwater
Houses--Oklahoma Territory
Pioneer life--Oklahoma Territory
Orlando

February 11, 1937
W. B. Sherwood
Old Worker.

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THE CHEROKEE STRIP RUN OF 1893.

Mr. Charles A. Minugh was born in Marysville Ohio in 1869. Mrs Minugh was born near Ottawa Kansas in 1869.

They came to the Indian Territory in February 1893. The Cherokee Strip had booths for registering at different points on the border line. As soon as they were open for registration, I registered at a booth in Stillwater, and then began to equip myself for the "run" on September 16th, 1893. I bought a four year old sorrell cow horse, which I paid \$40.00 for which was a good price at that time. On the morning of September the 15th, I went five miles west of Stillwater and was all ready for the signal the next morning to start, and it was like a stampede, as some poor horses with their riders would stumble and fall, but that slackened the speed of those behind, for in this race, it was every man for himself. I staked my claim about seven miles south west of Perry, and I started at once to build our first home on the claim. It was one they called a half dugout. I dug out a cellar about 12 by 16 feet and four feet deep, and built a sod wall all around the top, which was two feet thick and four feet high. I made the roof out of poles and wove in branches and leaves and used some tall wild grass that grew on the prairie, which made a very good roof, if it didn't rain too hard. I sent word to my wife in Stillwater to bring our wagon and team and all our belongings, which were not very much. After she arrived

and we had our home all fixed, I went to Stillwater and got a job at a brick yard, which paid \$1.25 per day. We only worked until noon on Saturdays, so I walked 22 miles out to our claim and walked back Sunday night and would be on the job Monday morning. I would make a trip home once a month. At the brick plant, all the brick were hand made and four of us men would average about five thousand brick per day. I worked this way for four years and in that time I saved up enough money to build us a small frame house, which I hauled the lumber from Perry and started farming. My crops consisted of corn, oats and kaffir corn and other head grains that were adopted to that soil. I set out an orchard of peaches, apples, plums and cherry trees, but the life of an orchard out on the prairie was about four or five years. We bought our supplies from a man named Cochran, who had a general merchandise store and was Post Master and banker at Orlando. While I would be working away from home, my wife would often have visitors in her dug-out, such as rattle snakes, centipedes, skunks and other varmints. Our cows, hogs and sheep soon grew to be quite a large herd, and in the spring of the year, it would keep us busy killing the wolves, which were destroying our young stock. My wife was a good shot with a rifle or pistol. It was several years before there were any schools or churches. The first school house was built in 1896 about two miles west of our claim. The school was named Moutry, after an Indian citizen of that neighborhood.

Freight in car lots were set out on the siding at Whorton water tank and were unloaded and hauled by wagon trains to

Stillwater. It was very lonesome for my wife to hold down 384 the claim, while I was away at work, but the people in those days were all good hearted, honest people. The neighbors would help each other, and at that, it was much safer to live out there on the claim by yourself, than it is to live in most any town today. There was a small creek that ran through our claim called Cow Creek, which furnished our stock with water. As there was no game law then, we always had plenty of fresh meat to eat, such as prairie chicken, quail, deer and ducks and geese in the season.

We lived on our claim ten years and moved to Nowata, Indian Territory and farmed there until 1903 when we moved to Muskogee, and have raised a family of eleven children.

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

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Field Worker's name Bradley BolingerThis report made on (date) May 14 1937

1. Name Albert Mose Mitchell
2. Post Office Address Panola, Oklahoma
3. Residence address (or location) 1 mile south of Panola Post Office.
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month January Day 30 Year 1862
5. Place of birth At what is now Gilmore--In the chocataw Nation

6. Name of Father Robert Henry Mitchell Place of birth Boon County Ark.

Other information about father Richard Cemetary. South East part of this county

7. Name of Mother Martha Tennessee Mitchel Place of birth Alabama

Other information about mother Borne in alabams- died and burried

richard Cemetary in the south east part of this county.

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 _____.