

CARTARBY, BEN

INTERVIEW

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FIELD WORKER JOHNSON H. HAMPTON
Indian-Pioneer History S-149
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INTERVIEW WITH BEN CARTARBY
Snow, Oklahoma.
Born December 11, 1892, near Bethel, Oklahoma.

Father's name Eben Cartarby, Mississippi.
Mother's name Isbell Cartarby, Mississippi.

I was born December 11, 1892, at or near Battiest,
a post office which was located after I was born. This
place was in Ceder County before statehood.

My father's name was Eben Cartarby, and my mother's
name was Isbell Cartarby, both born in Indian Territory.

My grandfather's name was Felihkatubbee, but I
don't remember what my grandmother's name was. They both
came from Mississippi and located at this place; there
was no post office nor any store there; it was out in
the woods and mountains.

Neither my father nor my grandfather were in the
Civil War or if they were, I did not hear of it. I heard
of the War but I never did know whether my father or my
grandfather enlisted.

Where we lived there were not many Indians living,
but after some time some Indians moved into our community.
The Indians used to live in communities then just like they
do today.

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My father never held any office under the Indian Government. He was just an Indian who lived in the mountains. Where we lived the Indians had plenty to eat; the country was full of wild game and the creeks were full of fish. Any little creek had lots of fish in it; so we lived pretty fair.

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We had a small farm/about five acres, which was a pretty good size farm for us Indians at that time. We raised enough corn on the five acres to run us for bread, that is all we needed at that time, and we raised garden vegetables enough to live on. At that time the Indians did not know about canning garden vegetables, and they don't do that now; they just don't know how it is done. We used to raise plenty of onions and they would gather them up and hang them in the house and use them as they were needed just as they did the corn.

We had a few cattle, hogs and ponies; in fact nearly all the Indians had a few cattle, hogs and ponies; while some of them had more than others. It didn't cost much to own stock then for they did not have to feed them like they

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do now. The stock ran out in the woods and on the mountains and went wild. It sure was fun to herd them up in the fall, and in the spring for branding.

We had plenty of corn to make our meal; of course the women folks made the meal by beating it in a mortar or Tomfuller block as it was called. It took them a good while to make this meal and get it ready to bake. They made hominy which was made by beating the corn just as they did the meal. I know that all the Indians lived that way for they could not get flour to eat, and it was corn meal or nothing, so we lived on corn meal. There were no grist mills in the country where we could grind our meal so the only thing to do was to beat it in one of those Tomfuller blocks.

Mother had a spinning wheel and a weaver where she made our shirts, jean breaches, and made some cloth to make dresses out of. They sure would last a long time; they were heavy stuff and it was good and warm through the winter. She sold what we didn't use, I don't know what she got for them.

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I went to school at Jones Academy for five terms. This school was run by the Choctaw Government at that time, but now I think that it is run by the Federal Government. It is still running as the school for Indian children-for boys. Then I went to Armstrong Academy for one term. This school also was for boys. I went there for one term. This school was burned down several years ago, and never was rebuilt.

I am a full-blood Choctaw Indian and was reared here in this country, and my parents lived in this part of the country until their death. I served in the World War, went to France with the other boys over there, saw a new country and came back alive.