

CHERRY, G. P. (DR.)

INTERVIEW

#4144

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BIOGRAPHY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

#4144

Indian-Hioneer History Project for Oklahoma

CHERRY, G. P. DR.

INTERVIEW.

Field Worker's name Eunice M. MayerThis report made on (date) May 10; 193 71. Name Dr. G. P. Cherry2. Post Office Address Willow, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) _____

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month June Day 16 Year 18615. Place of birth Clarksville, Texas.

6. Name of Father _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about mother _____

Note: 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 _____.

An Interview with Dr. G. P. Cherry, Willow, Oklahoma
By - Eunice M. Mayer - Field Worker.
May 10, 1937.

Dr. Cherry was born at Clarksville, Texas, and came to Mangum in 1889 from Garland, Texas. He attended medical school at Trinity University, Waxahachie, Texas, and began to practice medicine in 1884, fifty-three years ago, in Dallas County, Texas.

He located in Mangum in 1897 in the old Gilland Building on the south side of the square.

Mangum was a dugout town in the "cow" country, although settlers were gradually coming in and establishing homesteads there.

Instead of paying cash for their doctor bills the settlers usually traded produce, including yearlings. Dr. Cherry acquired three hundred head of cattle in this way at one time.

Dr. Cherry nearly froze to death while making a call to Turkey Creek in 1896.

He made trips alternately on foot and on horseback in sub-zero weather to treat a child ill with diphtheria. Of these trips Dr. Cherry said, "I felt more like sitting down than walking but I knew if I ever stopped I'd never be able to make the rest of the trip".

Rattlesnake bites and injuries inflicted by horses and cattle were most common - the pioneer physician remembers. Especially numerous were the victims of bucking broncos. There were no rodeos in those days since the "real thing" was so common.

There were no dentists in those days in old Greer County, and the nearest surgeon was located at Fort Worth, Texas, and consequently Dr. Cherry was obliged to extract teeth as well as to perform operations.

All calls were made on horseback and the physician was often required to ride from eighteen to twenty miles in freezing weather.

People, however, were in much better condition physically than they are today, due to their active outdoor occupations.

Dr. Cherry served two years in the Oklahoma legislature, and took a leading part in the passing of a bill providing separate schools for the negroes. In order to attend the legislature he was obliged to ride the freight wagon to Quanah, Texas, then go from there to Fort Worth on the railroad. From Fort Worth he bought a ticket to

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Guthrie, then the capital, on the Santa Fe line. The trip required two days and nights and was regarded as quite an excursion.

The section northeast of Mangum was inhabited by wandering bands of Kiowas and Comanches.