

CORLETT, HENRY

INTERVIEW

#9280

428

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

Field Worker's name Louise L. Barnes

This report made on (date) November 17, 1937

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1. Name Henry Corlett
2. Post Office Address KINGFISHER, Oklahoma
3. Residence address (or location) _____
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month Feb. Day 14th Year 1850
5. Place of birth _____

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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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Louise S. Barnes
Investigator
11-17-37

" EARLY OKLAHOMA EXPERIENCES"
(Told by Henry Corlett, Kingfisher, Okla)

Henry Corlett, born February 14, 1850, came to Oklahoma on the next day after the opening of the Territory, from northern Kansas, Washington County. There were five in this party driving through in covered wagons.

It was certainly a sight no one will ever be able to describe; when we arrived in Kingfisher, the day after the opening, no one had gotten settled and every one was very excited.

I had intended to start a small feed and grocery store the day we arrived and had ordered a load of flour but it was later a few hours when the first load was brought to Kingfisher. I started to build a small one room store as soon as I could after our arrival. Feed was in great demand for the horses that had taken part in the run. Corn sold at 1.00 a bushel then. We started our store in a small one

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room shack, combining everything but did a very good business.

The first school was started in a very unusual way.

The first thing I noticed after getting my business started was that no one was paying any attention to the small children who would have been in school if they had been in another state. This worried me, even though I had no children of my own then but I knew these little children needed an education and some place to spend part of their time. The families, where there were children to go to school, had very little time to devote to trying to start a school because these families had their livings to make.

I took it upon myself to see if I could not get a small private school started in a one room shack next to my store. I worked out a petition, then went around and collected signers and money to pay a teacher with until we could get another school started. We hired as the first teacher a girl named Maggie Lacy, paying her about an average of \$30.00 a month. This is the way the school was started and we had little

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trouble from then on having school because everyone took
an interest from that time.