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Field Worker: Harry I. Dreyer
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BIOGRAPHY OF Claude Hensley (White)
1303 North Robinson

BORN Indiana
1876

Mr. Hensley came to El Reno, Oklahoma in 1892. Worked with his father, in newspaper publishing business in El Reno. Has followed this business through his life.

Mr. Hensley has made it his hobby collecting historical data, and has around four or five hundred pictures, of early pioneers of Oklahoma, prominent Indians and groups of Indians, from around El Reno.

Mr. Hensley disagrees with the recent picture of Lone Wolf seen in print and claims familiarization with characters and their photographs.

He states that Spaniards were in Oklahoma as early as 1528, two Spanish explorers were captured by Indians. A Spaniard by the name of *Cabeza de Vaca* [?], was captured, and later became a medicine man. In this way managed to get back to California. He told of buffalos, which he called cattle and said they were as thick as leaves on the trees.

It was this Spaniard's story that caused Coronado's expedition in Oklahoma. Mr. Hensley has evidence to establish that they were around Lawton and Wichita Mountains, probably came down through Enid, El Reno and around Anadarko.

He refers to an ax being found in a grave, around Union City,

armor found in tree branch, records written on stone, of Spanish writings. Indications that they have camped there.

Mr. Hensley states that he always heard of wall of water coming down North Canadian, so he and his friend went out to the river, to see the river when it was rising, while there five Indians drove up, to see the river. Two young men, two young women and their Grandfather. The Grandfather told story of Canadian river being much larger than it was now. The Grandfather Indian told that about 1875, when he was a small boy, the river was so wide, a horse could not swim across.

He claims river was so wide that extended from Union City to Linco estimating it must have been approximately six miles wide. He states buffalo roamed across the country so thick that they traveled in groups, miles wide, many miles deep. They would pulverize dirt four and five inches deep, gradually filling the river, making stream smaller. He recalls how numerous the buffaloes were in the early days, by the fact that thousands of tons of Buffalo bones were gathered from the ground and sold in El Reno. The record of the sales and collecting of same in Dodge City, Kansas.

He refers to his friend, Mr. Harden, Real Estate Broker in Oklahoma City, who has record of painting on building showing Coronado with his companions on one side of the building and on other side of building painting of Indians watching them coming to Oklahoma. Claims Hardins has this on his property in Arizona that he estimates is worth \$100,000.

He recalls General Miles and General Sheridan bring greatest movement of troops since Civil war, down from end of railroad line and marching them down from Caldwell, Kansas, to El Reno, to quite an uprising of Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians. Also refers to burial of Indian Chief, who was brought to El Reno about this time, and of efforts of General Miles to quite the outbreak of Indians. He states mines were placed under Fort at Fort Reno and women and children were placed within, with plans to blow up the Fort and kill families rather than be captured by Indians, if things came to the worst. Before troops arrived. He states General Miles told Indians if they did not quite down he would exterminate every one of them.

Mr. Hensley has given considerable information to his friend at University of Oklahoma who is coming out with a book soon.

Mr. Hensley is a linotype operator for Oklahoma Times Publishing Company but is now recovering from Pneumonia.

(I was directed to him by his friend R. S. Trulock.)