

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

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Field Worker's name Robert V. Small,This report made on (date) Sept. 29th, 1937 19371. Name C. A. Hinshaw.2. Post Office Address Tonkawa, Oklahoma.3. Residence address (or location) 401 N. Main St.4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 12 Year 18655. Place of birth Indiana.6. Name of Father Ira J. Hinshaw. Place of birth Indiana

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Hannah Thomas hinsaw Place of birth Ohio.

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.

Robert W. Small
Interviewer
9-29-1937

C. A. Hinshaw, Interview
401 N. Main Street,
Tonkawa, Oklahoma.

C. A. Hinshaw, born in Indiana, March 14th, 1865, came to the opening of the Cherokee Outlet on September 16th, 1893, and made the run for a claim.

Starting from a place near Cameron which is now Manchester, Kansas, he made the run on horseback to a point twenty-three miles south of Manchester, in one hour and thirty-five minutes and staked a claim. Later Mr. Hinshaw let his brother-in-law file on this claim as his brother-in-law had also made the run but had gotten no claim and Mr. Hinshaw felt that he was not able to hold the claim and make any improvements.

About 1896 a part of the Saline Reserve was restored to Public Domain and Mr. Hinshaw filed on a claim that had formerly been in the Reserve. He built a dugout half of sod and half in the earth, size eleven by thirteen and a half feet, and also made a shed for stock. This was made of sod for the lower part and of straw for the upper half; he dug a well and broke out thirteen acres of land which he planted to corn and raised sixty bushels per acre,

the best corn crop he ever raised on the place. The following years, he broke out more land and planted it to wheat which made a yield of fifteen to eighteen bushels per acre. The second year of Mr. Hinshaw's residence on the place a cattle company came into that section of country and fenced ninety acres of his land free of charge, in order that their cattle running at large would not damage his growing crops.

The third year of his residence on the claim a school house was built in the community which the state helped to build or rather the state helped by paying for part of the lumber used in the building and the people of the community did the work and paid the larger part of the lumber bill. Church and Sunday School was also held in the school building and the first term of school was a seven months term with a salary paid to the teacher of \$30.00 per month.

Mr. Hinshaw was barely able to stay on his claim by working out at frequent intervals; he worked mostly at the carpenter trade. He raised lots of vegetables on his place and also had lots of company to visit him frequently which required lots of food at meal time. On some occasions he has had as many as twenty and twenty-five at his place visiting at one time. Mr. Hinshaw worked out at husking

corn in Kansas for 50 cents a day and in harvest time when the days were long and hot he worked for \$1.25 per day.

Mr. Hinshaw says that corn was taken to an old burr mill at Mena and ground into meal for family use.

One summer when he was working away from home his oldest daughter used an old mower wheel to drag the corn ground with. This old mower wheel was dragged by one horse up and down the rows of corn.

In 1899, Mr. Hinshaw moved to Cherokee to send his children to school and rented the farm out and the following year he sold his place. At the time he moved to Cherokee it was in Woods County and had a population of about seven hundred. He moved from Cherokee to Helena and then back to Cherokee, then to Kiowa, Kansas, and back to Jet and then back to Cherokee again. He lived in Cherokee for several years.

During these early years in that section of country the town of Jet had three locations; the first time it was moved was to get the post office near the center of the community and the next time it was moved to get close to the railroad. Mr. Hinshaw took part in the work of moving many of the buildings in each move.

He also worked at the carpenter trade in various towns and communities of that section of country during all the years he lived in that section. It seems that the crops grown on his claim grew smaller each year and he was unable to make a living on his claim and grew tired of having to work away from home so much to support his family so he sold his claim. He came to Tonkawa nearly three years ago and now resides at 401 North Main Street.