

INDEX CARDS

In. 1. 1. 1. -- Cherokee Nation

In. 1. 1. 1. 1. -- Cherokee Nation

Ball. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. San Francisco

DO. 1.

with

Vinyl

Chauncey O. Moore, Supervisor
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149

March 29, 1937 57

James R. Carselowey
Research Field Worker

Interview: Ed Shanahan

A PIONEER DRUGGIST

Name: Ed Shanahan. I was born at Fairbault, Minnesota,
October 15, 1860.

My father's name was Pat Shanahan. He was born in Ireland on
March 16, 1834, the day before St. Patrick's day and that is how
he got his name. My father came to the United States in 1849, and
stopped for a short time in New York City. There he married
Marjorie Dineen and moved to Iowa where he farmed until the year 1858,
when he moved a little farther west and settled in Minnesota. Here
he farmed until 1862, then moving to Colorado where he farmed until
the year of 1871. My brother, Tim Shanahan, was born in Colorado,
and my father took his two sons and moved to the Indian Territory,
renting a place and settling on Pawpaw Creek, three miles due west of
Anita. That was in 1871. In 1880, my father was married to Charlotte
Loggers, a Cherokee girl, and bought the place he had been renting.
No other children were born, Annie and Pat, and the children took
their allotments on the old home place. My brother, Tim, also married
a Cherokee girl and took his allotment farther north of our old home
place, where the family still live. Tim died about the year 1935.

Genevieve (Williams) Shanahan

Genevieve Shanahan is the daughter of James Franklin and Mary Jane Williams and was born in Delaware District, of the Cherokee Nation, December 18, 1868. She was educated in the public schools of the nation and at the National Female Seminary at Cherokee. On February 17, 1885, she married Timothy Dineen Shanahan. They are the parents of:

Margurite Christine
Jennie Josephine
Timothy Lloyd
Lenora Catherine
Benjamin Tillman
John Doran.

My brother lived on the farm where he allotted, only a few miles northwest of our old home place, until the time of his death. He helped to establish the Shanahan School, which bears his name.

Railroads came.

When my father came to the Indian Territory in 1871, there were two railroads that crossed each other at a place called Wainwrightville, a small village that had sprung up after the railroads arrived, now called Vinita. The end of the Frisco line was at a little west of the present site of the Frisco depot, in Vinita, where they had a turn table for their engines and went back. My father was among the first to welcome the second railroad to the town.

In 1882, the Frisco started building on west, their objective being Sapulpa, where a railroad junction was established shortly after they reached there. That was the end of their line for another long period of years.

Trouble Starts.

When my father discovered that the Frisco intended to lay its line through his property, without his permission, it got his "Irish" up and he went on the war path. When the steel gang reached our place my father was there on the edge of his land with loaded rifle and dared the men to move a single rail of his fence. (In those days the fields were all fenced with rails). The boss of the gang swore he was coming through, when he got ready. "Come right ahead," my father told him, "It's your own life you are playing with." Rallying his crew behind him, the boss marched his men up to the fence, ready to begin tearing down the fence, when men with Winchesters began to bob up from the bushes from all directions, and the crew immediately dropped back to Vinita, where dispatches were sent to St. Louis, asking officials of the railroad to come to Vinita and settle the difficulty. The officials came and argued with my father for two weeks, but my father had set a price of \$1500.00 to let them go through and they would not pay it.

Meanwhile other farmers began to take sides and it became apparent that a riot would break out unless something was done.

Called in Cherokee Chief.

About this time the railroad authorities called upon Dennis W. Bushyhead, principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, to come to Vinita and try to help settle the trouble. He came to Vinita and before

a crowd of 1000 people voiced an eloquent plea for a peaceful settlement. He did not oppose my father's stand in the matter but asked him to consider a compromise. After a while my father rose and addressed the speaker, saying, 'Mr. Bushyhead, I consider you an honorable man and a man of your word. I'll let the railroad go through my place if they will pay me \$1500 for the right-of-way. Will you guarantee me this money, if the railroad doesn't pay off?'

'I'll do that,' said Bushyhead. My father agreed to throw open his fence and let the railroad go through and this ended what looked like might have been a bad squabble, had not the Chief intercepted.

However, the railroad failed to pay off as agreed and several years afterward my father brought suit against them in the United States court with C. B. Stuart of Muskogee as presiding judge. He got a judgment against them and settled for the small sum of \$300.

Enters Politics.

I am a Republican in politics and a Republican in this neck of the woods. Never had much chance in getting elected, but in 1902, I defeated James C. Davenport, the Democratic candidate for mayor of Vinita, and at the end of this two years as mayor.

~~At the end of this two year term as mayor, Thomas M. Duffington~~
had just finished serving his four year term as Chief of the Cherokees and had moved back to Vinita and he defeated me for a third term.

However, a few years later I had the honor of defeating him for the small office of City Treasurer. I considered it a great honor because he had never been defeated for any elective office up to that time.

I entered the drug business in Vinita in 1889, and have been in that business ever since. I now live at North Smith St., Vinita, Oklahoma.