

SHOOP, LINCOLN GRANT.

INTERVIEW

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

SHOOP, LINCOLN GRANT

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Field Worker's name Ida A. Merwin,

This report made on (date) June 28, 1937

1. Name Lincoln Grant Shoop

2. Post Office Address Perry, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 1311 Delaware St.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month October Day 14 Year 1864

5. Place of birth Pennsylvania

6. Name of Father Captain Jake Shoop Place of birth W. Mooreland, Pennsylvania

Other information about father Veteran of Civil War.

7. Name of Mother Martha Jane Speer Shoop Place of birth Pennsylvania

Other information about mother _____

Parents are buried at Lake of Ozark, Missouri.

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 6.

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Ida A. Merwin,
Field Worker,
June 28, 1937.

An Interview with Mr. Lincoln Grant Shoop,
1311 Delaware St., Perry, Oklahoma.

I am the son of Captain Jake and Martha Jane Speer Shoop. I was born in Pennsylvania. When I was three years old my parents moved to the southwest part of Missouri, near Lake of Ozark. My father was wounded in the Civil War and shortly after locating in Missouri, he died from the effects of this wound.

I learned the printer's trade when a young man and worked at many different places in Missouri and Illinois, and in 1889 I came to Wellington, Kansas, where a cousin was editor of a paper. This is where I began to be interested in the opening of Indian Territory lands. In April 1889 when the land of old Oklahoma was opened for settlement I went to Arkansas City, and bought the first ticket to Lowry, a flag station north of Guthrie. There were two trains in readiness for the start. I was quite anxious to get on the first train but the question was which one was going first. One was on the main line, the

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other on the siding- both were already loaded with people, and when I noticed the siding train was preparing to start I attempted to get on, but was pushed and shoved by those already on until the train was in pretty good motion before I succeeded in getting on. I had with me some luggage, which consisted of a large wagon sheet in which I had some provisions, a Winchester rifle and a spade. The train did not stop at this flag station, Lowry, and the conductor told me if I wanted off, he would help me when they slowed down to cross the river. At a time when he directed me, I made a jump and he threw my bundle off. I was quite anxious to get a farm in the river bottom, but when I stopped to set a stake I found six "Sooners" were already on the same land and four were in a great argument already, so I decided to leave, and it was several days before I secured anything and then it was a lot in the town of Guthrie.

There were lots of wild turkeys and other wild game here then. I killed a turkey shortly after I arrived and used it for food.

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The first money I made after arriving here was from the sale of a fawn. A friend and I were in the country south of Guthrie when we scared up a wild deer and, thinking there might be a fawn there, we hunted until we found one which we sold to some game collectors for \$10.00. These collections would pay about twice as much to the white people for the game as they would to the Indians who were doing lots of hunting during these days.

Shortly after locating in Guthrie I met Frank Greer and his brother who were operating a printing shop. After they found I was a printer by trade they wanted me to work for them. I set the type of the first edition for "The Oklahoma State Capital", which was published in Guthrie following the opening, in April, 1889. There was also another paper in Guthrie at that time called the "Guthrie Get Up". This was a two-page edition owned by L.F. Little, who later sold out to Dr. Peoples, a dentist, who was on the same train that I came on.

At the opening of the Iowa and Sac and Fox reservation. I made a run and staked a claim about eight miles west of where Chandler is now located, but this

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happened to be the quarter reserved for school land and I did not get to keep it.

Later, I made a run into the Cheyenne and Arapaho Reservation, but did not get a land claim in this race. However, I succeeded in getting a lot in Watonga, in Blaine County. This race for the town lots was a foot race of one-fourth mile. Having made the race to the reservation on horse, I was so sore and tired from riding I did not feel I could do much in a foot race but I succeeded in getting a much better location than the others of my party.

In 1893, I made the run in the Cherokee Strip opening, riding a horse, and secured a piece of land ten miles northwest of the townsite of Perry, which I still own. During this run, when I reached Black Bear Creek I found the banks so steep I could not cross at that point and had to hunt a crossing. This delayed me quite a bit. Where I attempted to cross there was a man whose horse had given out and he could not get him up the bank. I helped him, and in time we succeeded in getting across, and went to where we thought we could stake a claim and set our

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flags. Then I fired my pistol to see if it brought a response. Shortly, from the brush of the creek bank appeared a man, who proved to be a "Sooner". Upon investigation I found he had been there several days ahead of the run. My brother was to follow with the wagon and bring my wife and child. I returned to the creek to await their coming to help them across. We succeeded in getting across the creek and camped there for the night. The next day we marked our lines as nearly as we could, and after filing returned to Guthrie where I bought a two-room house and moved to the farm. we got permanently located on the claim just before the expiration of the six months time. I began the breaking of the soil and planted crops, living on the farm until I moved to Perry.

I organized the first printer's union in Guthrie ~~in~~ ~~Guthrie~~, in 1892, and was sent as a delegate to the convention at Philadelphia that same year. I also organized a union in Oklahoma City. In the spring of 1893 I was sent as a delegate to the Printer's Convention in Chicago. I was the Republican member of the Noble

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County election board from Statehood until I was appointed postmaster at Perry, Oklahoma, in 1922, which position I held for twelve years.

I was elected President of the '89er's at Guthrie at the last convention.

I was better acquainted with the Iowa and Sac and Fox tribes of Indians than any others. Among them were some well-educated ones who had taken advantages of the opportunities offered them by the Government. They did not do much of farming but made their living mostly by hunting, as there were plenty of wild game in those days.

They had very peculiar methods of fasting and gatherings when one of the tribe died which I think was similar to all other tribes.