

HANKINS, A. S. SECOND INTERVIEW. 977166

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

167

HANKINS, A. S.

SECOND INTERVIEW.

9771

Field Worker's name Herbert T. Rogers

This report made on (date) January 10, 1938

1. Name Arthur Sylvester Hankins

2. Post Office Address Alva, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 719 Church

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 8 Year 1848

5. Place of birth Industry, Illinois

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 _____.

HANKINS, A. S.

SECOND INTERVIEW.

9771

Herbert T. Rogers
Investigator
January 10, 1938

Interview with Arthur Sylvester Hankins
Alva, Oklahoma

I was born near Industry, McDonough County, Illinois, March 8, 1848. I attended the public schools of Industry Illinois until I was fifteen years of age, then attended high school in Macomb, Illinois, where I graduated from high school. At the age of nineteen I entered a university in Burlington, Iowa, attending two years. During the next two years I taught language and mathematics in the same school. I continued in the teaching profession seven years.

On March 7, 1869, I was united in marriage with Nancy Josephine Bozarth, daughter of I. H. and Rhoda Bozarth. To this union eleven children were born, three sons and eight daughters, of whom one son and six daughters are now living.

In 1873 I moved with my family to a farm near Iola, Kansas, and during the next ten years I ran a meat market and owned and operated a canning factory in Iola. In 1883 I moved to Barber County, Kansas, settling on a

HANKINS, A. S.

SECOND INTERVIEW.

9771

2

pre-emption claim near Hardtner, Kansas, where we lived during the summer months, but moved to Kiowa, Kansas, during the winter months to educate the children. In Kiowa I owned and operated a hotel, known as the "Kiowa House." Many and varied were the transients who enjoyed the hospitality of this inn. Among them were cowboys, freighters, railroad men and some Indians.

At the opening of the Strip on September 16, 1893, I was one of those to make the race into the new country for a homestead. With the assistance of my faithful and fleet footed horse I secured a fine farm four miles northwest of Alva, then a city of tents. Here I built what was at that time one of the finest homes of the community, and its doors were open to everybody for any worthy cause, and until a school house was built, it was used for school, Sunday school, literary societies, committee meetings, holiday dinners, and the like. No hungry or needy person was ever turned from its door without assistance.

My wife and I assisted Reverend G. W. Burket and Reverend Dan Cline, two United Brethren ministers, in

HANKINS, A. S.

SECOND INTERVIEW.

9771

3

organizing a United Brethren Church Society, which held its meetings in a sod school house and later in the present school building in Riverside School District.

While living on my farm near Alva I was for several years a member of the State Board of Agriculture. In 1907 we moved to Alva and lived in a house at the corner of Church and Eighth Streets until the death of my wife in 1916. Prior to this time our children had all married and were living in homes of their own. I was married in 1917 to Letha Odenweller of Macomb, Illinois. She had been a classmate of mine during my boyhood school days.

Note: Mr. Hankins died January 3, 1938, but the above information was given by him before his death.

A picture of Mr. Hankins is attached to original copy