

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

TRIPP, J. W.

INTERVIEW

9842

Field Worker's name Robert W. Small

This report made on (date) January 14 1938

1. Name J. W. Tripp
2. Post Office Address Blackwell, Oklahoma. R.F.D. #2.
3. Residence address (or location) 3 miles south; 6 miles west
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month November Day 25 Year 1867
5. Place of birth Ohio
6. Name of Father O.T. Tripp Place of birth Ohio
Other information about father _____
7. Name of Mother Eliza Hanning Tripp Place of birth Pennsylvania
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 5.

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Robert W. Small,
Investigator,
January 14, 1938.

An interview with Mr. J.W. Tripp,
3 miles south; six miles west,
Blackwell, Oklahoma.

I was born November 25, 1867, in Ohio, but from
1884 to 1893, I was a resident of Kansas.

I made a trip in a wagon in 1886, down on the
Arkansas River, near the present site of Ponca City. I
was hunting and sightseeing; I didn't see much game but
saw lots of cattle and a few log cabins along the river.
The cattle ranches were not fenced at that time; the log
houses along the river were used by the cowboys and ranch
hands as camp houses.

In 1890 I went down to Kingfisher on the Rock Island
Railroad to hunt up a location for a home but the country
I saw did not appeal to me and I returned home.

In the opening of the Cherokee Strip I made the "Run"
and secured the northeast quarter of Section 2, Township
26, north, Range 2 west. Immediately after staking my claim

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a man rode up and said, "Mister, I was running for this particular tract myself and I'll give you \$25.00 if you will ride on." I told him I thought I had a place without any contestants on it and that I desired to stay; the man proceeded on his way, and I never had a contestant on my homestead. Soon after securing my claim I built a small house on it and returned to Kansas for a few weeks, and when I returned to my claim again I discovered that my house had been stolen and moved away; I never could or did find it. I again built a small house and broke up several acres of sod land which were planted to crops the following spring but very little was raised of anything planted until the year of 1897, when I gathered 3200 bushels of wheat from 100 acres, all of which was sold at a good price. The corn crop of 1897 was nothing unusual but fair crops of almost every kind were raised that year and wheat was excellent.

I was a bachelor for some years after the opening of the country and I did my own cooking, laundry, mending and

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general housework and usually went to work by daylight of mornings and worked till dark. After a few years of bachelorhood, I was married and have raised a family of promising boys, two of whom have finished college and specialized in agricultural or soil knowledge and the youngest one is now attending the same A & M College at Stillwater at which his two older brothers attended and is taking up the technical study of soil and agriculture.

In 1927, I was awarded a prize for making the highest rating in a test of a number of farmers in Kay County, and was selected as the Master Farmer in my district.

My farm is known as the Thompson Creek Stock Farm; here I have built every modern convenience for my stock as well as for myself and family. I have raised different breeds of cattle, but am now raising Holstein and Black Angus breeds. I have found it very profitable to raise hogs and chose the Chester Whites; in addition to cattle and hogs I have raised many horses and mules on my farm

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and everything I have handled in the line of stock has proved to be profitable as well as a source of pride and satisfaction in growing fine stock.

I have added to my original homestead by purchasing other lands adjoining, until I now own 400 acres of very fertile land, which my sons and I are farming with usual success when climatic conditions are at all favorable. My neighbors have always been the best of people and are still this day; my community has never felt the effects of any dishonorable action by those who live upon their lands. I think the original pioneer settlers were the best of people; their association together through the trying periods of early days have cemented a friendship that seems to bind them closer than the ties of blood relationship.

I have never allowed my interest to be drawn away from the subject of farming and stock raising, which I have successfully mastered, and I have instilled in my sons an inclination to follow closely after me and to profit by my experience that has proven so successful.

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The opportunity to enter politics or hold political office that often has caused men to leave their chosen work or profession has never affected me in my chosen work of farming and stock raising.