

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

TRIPP, JOHN A.

INTERVIEW.

9845.

Field Worker's name Robert W. Small.

This report made on (date) January 21, 1938.

1. Name John A. Tripp.

2. Post Office Address Blackwell, Oklahoma. RFD #2.

3. Residence address (or location) 3 miles south, 6 west of Blackwell.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month February Day 9 Year 1870.

5. Place of birth Illinois.

6. Name of Father O. T. Tripp. Place of birth Ohio.

Other information about father \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of Mother Eliza Fanning 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Robert W. Small,  
Investigator,  
Jan. 21, 1938.

An Interview With John A. Tripp.  
Blackwell, Oklahoma.

I was born February 9, 1870, in Illinois. In 1886, I went to No Man's Land of Oklahoma, in what is now Beaver County; I took a wagon and team and was on a sightseeing trip. I stayed a few days on the Arkansas River in that country and caught lots of fish from that river but didn't kill much game. I followed a trail south from Cimarron, Kansas, that had been made by freighters and others and I was excited when I saw very few cattle in the west at that time. It was in July when I made the trip and the country was hot and dry; the land was covered with buffalo or short grass and some of the streams had a small growth of scrubby timber along their banks; otherwise, the country was just a barren prairie for miles and miles. My trip was uneventful, except for the lonely solitude of the vast expanse through which I traveled.

I did not make the run at the opening of the Cherokee Strip but came to Kay County in 1894 and farmed with a

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brother and bought a relinquishment on the  $E\frac{1}{2}$  of  $SE\frac{1}{4}$  Section 3 and the  $E\frac{1}{2}$  of  $NE\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 10, Township 26 North, Range 2 West, for the sum of \$2,000.00, which included a small house, barn, sheds and other minor improvements, with all land fenced. I put out a young orchard on the place, which thrived and bore an abundance of fruit for some years. My land lay between Thompson Creek and Deer Creek and was very rich and productive land.

In the years prior to 1897 I failed to raise any crops worthy of mention, but in 1897 I had one hundred acres in wheat that produced thirty-five bushels per acre and corn made about twenty-five bushels per acre the same year; the wheat was then selling for a much better price than formerly and the bumper crop of that year put the farmers in high spirits and improvements of every kind were noticeable over the entire country. Prior to 1897, most farmers of the country were dependent upon the state of Kansas for food and feed and many farmers who had failed to raise enough feed to winter their stock were compelled to haul their feed from Kansas and many were unable to obtain anything but wheat

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straw, and this straw was hauled in abundance to most every part of the northern section of Oklahoma during all those years prior to 1897.

I have raised lots of stock of all kinds during my life on the farm but hogs have been the most profitable stock for me to raise because my land was well adapted to growing corn, being mostly bottom land. I have raised shorthorn cattle with success, in fact, most all kinds of stock have proven to be profitable with me, because of the care and attention given to them at all times.

People were a great deal more neighborly and sociable in the early days than at present for they did not have so many things to attract their time and attention as we do now. People do not have as much time to think of their neighbors and their welfare now as formerly, time now is occupied with various matters that were unknown to the old pioneers. The Government is too generous to a lot of the shiftless people who have been led to believe that the Government owes them a living and so that they made no strenuous effort to get ahead or achieve any worthy ends.

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I have served my township as Trustee for a period of nine years in the early days of the country. I have one of the best improved farms to be found in the country which is well-stocked at this time with Shorthorn cattle and Red Jersey hogs; I have two large and well-constructed barns for many head of stock and unlimited feed space. I also have a large flock of white chickens with a large, modern chicken house.

I own 240 acres of fertile land, which I oversee personally.