

HANSHAW, I. G. (MRS.) INTERVIEW #4798

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HANSHAW, I. G., MRS. ~~INTERVIEW~~ BIOGRAPHY FORM

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Paul M. Fink

This report made on (date) July 18, 1937

1. Name Mrs. I. G. Hanshaw

2. Post Office Address Clinton, Oklahoma

3. Residence address (or location) 300 South 6th

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month July Day 14 Year 1871

5. Place of birth Floyd, Kentucky

6. Name of Father Andrew Hanshaw Place of birth Floyd, Kentucky

Other information about father Mercantile and hotel.

7. Name of Mother Susan Bradley Place of birth Floyd, Kentucky

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 _____.

Maudie M. Fink, Interviewer
July 12, 1937

An Interview with Mrs. I. G. Hanshaw, Clinton, Oklahoma, about her grandfather, Reverend Benjamin Franklin Ober.

Mr. Benjamin Franklin Ober, or B. Ober as he signed his name, was born in Bedford County, Pennsylvania, January 8, 1824. He was of a religious mind and from youth desired to be a servant of God. Mr. Ober was a minister of the Church of God Church. He took the Bible as the only rule of faith and practice. Mr. Ober went from place to place with his family, establishing and preaching the word of God.

Mr. Ober came to the Oklahoma Territory from Arkansas City, expecting to meet his son who was a doctor, but in two days after reaching here they received the sad news of his assassination in the Indian Territory. He had gone there from Texas with some stock, intending to go to Oklahoma Territory after disposing of them. That was the saddest shock they had met with, as he was a very successful physician, in the midst of life and health. He was only thirty-nine years of age and had graduated from Fort Wayne, Indiana, a few years before his death.

That sad bereavement left them in a strange country penniless, so they went into a dug-out, made a scaffold to

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sleep on and lived on a dust floor. They spent one of the hardest years of their lives. They did not have means to move elsewhere, so they went to work trusting in God, and by industry and economy and assistance of friends, they managed to live the first year there.

Mr. Ober opened appointments, and preached every Sunday in dugouts and groves to the few that would come to hear, as the country was thinly settled. Mr. Ober often made long journeys on foot to preach the gospel that year, at the age of seventy-one.

The second year the brethren and friends presented him with a horse and buggy, then he attended his appointments regularly. Immigration was fast and some school houses were built and they began to have interesting services.

The third and fourth year the Board of Missions gave him an appropriation of one hundred dollars a year.

About the time the mission work began to progress, Mrs. Ober's health became very poor, and Mr. Ober dared not leave her for a sufficient time to hold protracted meetings. She had a stroke of paralysis which rendered her helpless for some time.

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After church work began to prosper and the country began to prosper, and was more thickly settled, preachers of every denomination came into the country and tried to drown or destroy the mission work first established. Mr. Ober continued preaching as much as he could at that time as prospects for church work were better then than at any time since he came to this country.

The year of 1899 brought them another sad bereavement in the death of their last child, which left them alone and childless. Their eldest daughter died in the month of August. She was fifty-four years of age, the mother of seven children, two of whom had preceded her to the grave. This left five to mourn the loss of a devoted Christian mother, but no doubt their loss was her gain. Her life seemed to be one of hardships and sorrows. She was converted at an early age and united with the Church of God at the age of fourteen.

Mr. Ober was seventy-eight years of age and completed the fifty-seventh year of service. He preached his first sermon from the text, John 5: 40.

Mr. I. G. Hanshaw came from Temple, Texas, to El Reno

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on the railroad, then from El Reno to Arapaho on the stage coach. The stage coach changed horses twice coming from El Reno, but the same driver came on through.

Mr. Hanshaw was in the grocery business in Arapaho before Clinton started to build.