

some materials for the Oral History Project. However our main objective was to establish a satisfactory relationship with these people and put into practice some of our philosophy concerning the value of bringing Indian history to Indian people. We did secure a few interviews with Shawnee individuals and obtained some data for our collection in the form of oral testimony. However the main tangible result of this class for the Project consisted of the compilation and interpretation of a wide assortment of documentary materials on Shawnee history.

It was found that considerable data on certain aspects of Shawnee history exists, but is scattered out through a variety of reference works. Many of the most helpful sources are books which have long been out of print, or articles published in little known journals. Zeroxed copies of some of these hard-to-locate articles were secured for our collection. The accompanying materials were written up and distributed to the Shawnees who were attending the history class. It is felt that these constitute as complete a history of the Absentee Shawnee group as is available anywhere at present.

This material is unpolished and in some respects incomplete, but it was the best that could be done in the time available. An attempt was made to show the depth of Indian history on the North American continent and give some idea of the contributions of American Indians to European and other world cultures. Much more could be done along this line. It was found, however, that the Shawnees were most interested in their own history, as far back as the Shawnees could be documented, and especially in the recent history of the Absentee Band. It is hoped that through this class some of these people may come to realize the value of our Oral History Project and cooperate more with us in providing information on their life and culture.

The final meeting of this class was a field trip to the Stovall Museum, with special attention given to the American Indian exhibits. Many Indian ethnological items were brought out of storage to show, and it is felt that this meeting was a fitting conclusion for the preceding classes.