

T-621-1 (First of Five Interviews)

MARY RED EAGLE, QUAPAW

INTERVIEWED BY: VELMA NEIBERDING

INTERVIEW DATE: DECEMBER 15, 1969

TRANSCRIBED BY: MONETTE COOMBES

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GENERAL SUBJECT: QUAPAW BURIAL CUSTOMS; IMPORTANCE OF EAGLE FEATHER
TO QUAPAWS; EDUCATION; NAMING CEREMONY

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

QUAPAW WOMEN NURSED SOLDIERS DURING CIVIL WAR

EDUCATION - MARY WAS A NOTED INDIAN SINGER

CHIEF TALLCHIEF

NAMING CEREMONY - NAMED BY TALLCHIEF

IMPORTANCE OF EAGLE FEATHER TO QUAPAWS

SHELLS IN NAMING CEREMONY

BURIAL CUSTOMS AND MOURNING

EAGLE FEATHER STILL USED IN BURIAL CEREMONY

MEETING JOHN WILSON OR MOONHEAD

INCIDENTS THAT HAPPENED THE DAY MOONHEAD DIED

BACKGROUND OF INFORMANT:

Mary Red Eagle was born on Spring River in northeastern Oklahoma. She lived with an aunt until she was sent to Seneca Indian school at Wyandotte and then Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas. Her aunt died while she was attending Haskell and she then went to the Sisters of Loretta Academy in Kansas City. She studied music and was a student at the Kansas City Conservatory of Music where she met Madame Schuman Heinke and Lily Pons. Mrs. Red Eagle has traveled extensively and has sung before many audiences. She came back to Miami, Oklahoma to make her home and has lived here for several years. She was born around 1891. Mary was married to Wa-Go-She, an Osage and inherited his headright when he died. Her first husband was Leroy Red Eagle. Her father was a medicine man (Big Jim Lane).

Note: The other interviews on this tape are: Bill Connor, Quapaw
Sam Dryer, Non-Indian
Fannie Good Eagle Richards, Quapaw
Mandy Turkey Greenback, Seneca-Cayuga