

TURNER, GOLDIE PA WHEL INDIAN SCOUTS. #7723 353

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PAWNEE INDIAN SCOUTS:

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Goldie Turner,
Field Worker,
Oct. 2, 1937.

Material about the Pawnee Indians,
Gathered from several different
Persons, by Goldie Turner.

PAWNEE INDIAN SCOUTS.

In March 1876 Major North from the United States Army came to the Pawnee Agency to enlist one hundred Pawnee braves for scout duty to help General Custer in the Sioux uprising. Major North had no trouble in getting the number of fighters but they were supposed to go mounted but since the Pawnees had few horses at this time they went on foot with only enough ponies to carry the packs to Coffeyville, Kansas, and then on to Nebraska where they were given horses, then on to the Big Horn Mountains. These Pawnees arrived too late to help Custer but stayed there on scout duty for about six months. They were disbanded early in September and returned to their Pawnee camp. Among these scouts was a boy of fourteen named Rush Roberts. This boy now an old man is the only living scout of this group. He is still strong and lives on his farm about four and one half miles northwest of Pawnee. He speaks only broken English.

TURNER, GOLDIE.

PAWNEE INDIAN SCOUTS. 7723.

-2-

TANNING THE BUFFALO HIDES.

When the Pawnees went on their buffalo hunts they took the squaws along with them. After the men had killed the buffalo the squaws and old men skinned and tanned them. To tan them they first scraped them all over with a piece of sharp bone or a flint to remove all the meat and membrane. After doing this the buffalo head was split open and the brains taken out and put on the hide. With round flat stones these brains were worked into the skin. This oiled the skin and made it pliable. The skin was rubbed with the stone and worked with the hands for several days until the hides were well dried and were smooth and pliable. The hides tanned in this way could be sold to the whites for from \$5.00 to \$7.00 apiece. They were superior in grade to the ones brought green to the camp and sold.

Dress of the Pawnees at the time of the Opening.

The women wore two piece dresses of bright calico, the waists of which were very like shirts, which slipped on over the head and hung loose at the bottom over the

TURNER, GOLDIE.

PAWNEE INDIAN SCOUTS.

7723.

-3-

skirt. The skirt was gathered very full onto a waist band and hung to the ground. The men wore bright colored shirts and denim trousers. Both men and women wore bright colored blankets. The women carried the papooses on their backs held in place by blankets and both the men and women wore buckskin moccasins. Some moccasins were beaded and some were not; the Pawnees would tan the deer hide and make the moccasins themselves.

GHOST TOWNS.

When the Santa Fe Railroad Company built its line north from Stillwater, about half way between Stillwater and Pawnee and about four miles northeast of Glencoe they built a switch on the place homesteaded by Mr. George Rupp. The switch and line cut off about sixteen acres of the farm and the owner named Rambo had this corner surveyed off and platted into town lots. Soon a general store was established and a little later a post office was established which was called Rambo. A blacksmith shop was also built but no other buildings were ever put there. This store had a small business for a few years but was soon

TURNER, GOLDIE.

PAWNEE INDIAN SCOUTS.

7723.

-4-

torn down and the post office was discontinued. The lots have all been bought up by Mr. Dugan and turned into a field. Of course the railroad switch still remains and a box car depot stands there for the protection of persons who might want to flag the train.

About five miles southwest of Rambo Mr. Orns built a store on his farm with a town site in mind. The store had a small business for a short time and was called Ornsville but no other buildings were ever built. Crystal was a little town about three miles east of the present town of Maramec. It had one general store and several saloons, a blacksmith shop and several residences. At one time it had a population of several hundred people and when the railroad built south through Pawnee County and Maramec was established the buildings at Crystal were moved to Maramec. Greenup was a few miles northwest of Hallett and was platted about 1903 by J. J. Kiley; there was a general store and a saloon there. The town existed only a few years however. South of Jennings along the Frisco track Mr. West platted out forty acres of his farm for a townsite to be called Westbrook. Lots were sold but no buildings were ever erected on them.