

MILLER, SEBRON.

INTERVIEW.

RED STICK WAR

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Jefferson Berryhill, Field Worker
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Incident during the Red Stick War.
Interview with Sebron Miller.

Mr. Sebron Miller told of the things that happened in War that was called the "Red Stick War." He was not born then but these stories he heard from his parents or his fore-fathers. He told of ones when the Indians were captured in battle, the Chief, if he wanted to, could have escaped but true to his tribe came willingly and was made prisoner. Seeing their chief submitting arrest, the Indian prisoners wished to fight and try to escape to save the chief's life as they expected no mercy from their captors. The chief spoke to them in the language of his tribe and told them to calm down as they had but forgotten that he was a medicine man and that he would set them all free and that no harm would come to them. He told them they had one good friend, and he said his friend, the night, was approaching fast.

They were very much afraid of death which they knew was awaiting them. Yet, after listening to their chief, who was not afraid, and who was trying to cheer and encourage his tribe, they finally became quiet and talked among themselves as they were being taken to a camp where the soldiers expected to camp that night

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before marching to their destination.

Finally the night came and the pale-face soldiers stopped and made a camp. The Indian prisoners were all bound hands and feet, and they were all placed in a bunch in the center of the soldiers as they had now taken their places in a circle surrounding the captives.

The soldiers being tired and weary went to sleep, but the guards were awake. The prisoners, too, were all awake, hoping and trusting their chief for deliverance from death.

The chief was wide awake and although he was bound hands and feet, he was busy making medicine. He was making medicine for the captors to put them to sleep. Succeeding in his medicine, he saw one by one the soldiers and guards fall asleep 'till all had gone sound asleep. Then it was an easy matter to untie and free himself and taking a knife from the soldiers he freed all his members.

When all were free, they took their weapons, killed and scalped the soldiers, and escaped without harm done to them.

Mr. Miller said those old Indian chiefs and warriors knew how to make the bullet from a gun go around them or

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glance from them. If they were wounded they blamed themselves for neglecting their medicine, although they were never wounded much.

He said when a soldier had made a camp some place, the Indian spies who are ever alert would come and let the Chief know; then that night they would make medicine by dancing in the night around a big fire 'till after midnight. In their dance, they stomped, yelled war whoops and drank Red Root/^{so}as to make them strong and swift of action. In dancing they are making medicine to put their enemy to sleep. After dancing 'till after midnight they made the attack about sunrise, believing their enemy to be asleep. In attacking, they gave the war whoop to paralyze their enemy with fear so as to slaughter them to their wont.