

CHIPKO, JOHN

INTERVIEW

#6213

128

(2nd Interview) An Interview with John Chupko.
By Henry Day - Field Worker.
June 11, 1937.

Under our laws we had a judge, prosecuting attorney, court clerk, four lighthorsemen and one captain, just like a county sheriff. We had a Creek Chief and a Second Chief. We had a strict law. Any Indian found guilty of stealing a horse from another Indian was punished with 50 lashes on bareback. These four light-horsemen do the punishing, ten lashes apiece. The second crime it would be one hundred lashes and the third time they found him guilty of death. The day he was to be killed he was given a big dinner. He went where they were making the coffin for him and also went and saw his grave where they were digging it. This would be in the morning and after dinner they put the coffin in the wagon and the condemned Indian would sit on top of it. When he got to his grave he would get out of the wagon and the lighthouse captain would blindfold him with a black silk handkerchief and put a piece of black cloth over his heart and set him down against a tree; the captain would ask him who he wanted to shoot him and he'd name two of the light-horsemen. The captain stepped

CHUPKO, JOHN.

INTERVIEW.

1200
#6213

-2-

three steps from him and put one shell in each gun. When he (Captain) counts three, the man was shot and would be dead.

But today we have no laws. We lost our law in 1899.

Note:

The Interview of John Chupko, full blood Creek is not changed to more correct English. He is quite clear though expressing himself in Indian fashion.

Editor.