

GRAYSON, ADAM.

SECOND INTERVIEW

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PROPHECY

SECOND INTERVIEW

An interview of Adam Grayson, age 65,
Ke-cho-ba-da-gee town (tulwa)
pharoah, Oklahoma.

Billie Byrd, interviewer
Indian-Pioneer History
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I would probably have been a famous medicine man and prophet today if I had done everything as ~~Tustanuggie Jimboy had directed me. Tustanuggie~~ Jimboy had quite a reputation along the medicine and prophet line for people from many miles away would always be coming to his home which was a little north of the present Weleetka, Oklahoma. There would be the Indians, colored and white people always in a constant stream coming to and from his home in wagons, hacks, horseback and even walking. I've never seen anyone else have so many visitors as he did.

There was a time when an Indian by the name of George Johnson, also a step-son of Concharty Mekko, who lived in the vicinity of the Nuyaka settlement. He was reported to have lost several head of horses. George Johnson and another friend, Nafa, looked a whole week for the stray horses but they never did find

any of them. After all this time, Johnson decided to take his case to Tustanuggie Jimboy to find the whereabouts of his horses and if they had been stolen or had strayed off.

As Johnson approached the home of Jimboy, it is told that before anything was ever said Jimboy is said to have remarked, "You have come to tell me that your horses have been stolen and to ask me where they are at and who has them. Your horses have not been stolen but they are back in the hills just north of where you live. Go back home and this evening, at the feeding time take an ear of corn and hit on the feeding trough like you always do--they'll come walking in. If they don't come in this evening, repeat the act in the morning." Those horses did not come in that evening but the next morning when the act was repeated, the horses came up to the feeding trough as if they had stayed all night out in the lot.

I thought that I would like to inherit this gift of prophecy so that I once asked in what manner I might become as he was. Tustanuggie Jimboy said, "I can turn you out to tell things, but I am afraid you couldn't stand the trial." He told me he would have to

charge me \$15.00 to get me through the ceremonies if I would really decide to become as he was as a medicine man and prophet.

We were to camp along the hills, take emetic and drink nothing but white sofkey. At the completion of eight days which was the first requirement, there were other set observances to take place.

Our camp was to be made. We were to place a large log lying East and West and we were to sit on the log. Tustanuggie Jimboy said, "We are to wait for that 'thing' which will come from the East end of the log." I asked him, "What 'thing' would that be." He just kept repeating, "That 'thing' will come up on the log from the East end." He finally explained, "A lizard shaped reptile will crawl upon that log from the Eastern end, large enough to enter your mouth. When the 'thing' crawls upon to the log you will have your mouth open and it will jump in to your open mouth and into your system. That will be the medicine but will be in that form." That ordeal seemed harder to go through with than the eight days so I just quit. If I had another chance like that I know I would open my mouth for that lizard.

CAPTURES

Bass Reeves, a colored man, was a noted and well-known United States marshal. He was a fearless man when it came to fulfilling his duty as an officer of the law. He was a broad shouldered man, standing fully six feet and had very broad hands. He owned and always rode a sorrel horse which he loved next to his duty. He was known in Oklahoma and in the Indian Territory for his deeds as U. S. marshal for at least thirty-five years. He is said to have missed only one time in capturing his man and that was a man named Hellubee Sammy who lived at that time in what is now the Boley vicinity. Hellubee Sammy owned a large black horse that was a swift runner and that was the only reason why he was not captured--Sammy's horse outran the U. S. Marshal's horse.

At another time, Reeves made a trip to Seminole to return with a prisoner who was being held there and who he wanted. While they were on their way back, the prisoner bargained with Reeves. The prisoner bet that his steed could outrun Reeves' steed, and if it did, Reeves would tear up the warrant. Reeves was so confident in his horse that he said it would ^{not be} necessary to tear it up as he (the prisoner) couldn't easily

outrun the horse of Reeves. In the outcome, the U. S. marshal Reeves was very surprised to see how the prisoner's horse outran his sorrel steed so that in the end, he actually tore up the warrant and the prisoner kept on riding fast and never was captured.

One mile south of what is now Pharoah or Springhill, Oklahoma, in eastern Okfuskee county, Bass Reeves had made a camp in some thickets. It was his custom to hold several prisoners until he had several in the camp when they would be loaded into wagons and hauled off to Ft. Smith. He had a man named Campbell, who stayed all the time in camp with the prisoners, as guard and as the camp cook. All the prisoners were seated on a large log cut especially for this purpose. The prisoner's feet would be shackled together and the shackles pinned to the ground near the end of the log and the rest of the loose shackles pinned to the log itself.

In his free and spare moments, Reeves would walk up and down before the prisoners and preach to them for he was a deacon of the church. Reeves hated

to think that he took men to prison but it was his duty to carry out the law enforcement so that he would take the time to tell his prisoners and preach to them of right and wrong.

There was a time when notices were issued offering \$5,000.00 reward for the capture of two bad men. Reeves decided that he wanted the reward. He studied the many ways in which he might make a capture and he finally heard that the two men were somewhere along the south near the Texas border so that he journeyed in that direction with a following of a few selected men.

Reeves knew just about where the two men were staying and where they could be found. It is said that Reeves pitched his camp about twenty-eight miles from where he thought the notorious outlaws might be found. He established the camp at this distance so that he could take his time in making a plan of procedure for a capture without creating any suspicions and look over the lay of the surrounding land.

He had made out one plan to see if he could successfully carry it out and if this failed he was going to try other plans. The first plan was successful. It

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is told that he disguised himself as a tramp. From all his outward appearances he was a tramp but inwardly he was the fearless U. S. marshal with his duty to fulfill. With him he had every aid that a U. S. marshal could need, handcuffs, six shooter and armed with the steel breast plate, while over all this he wore very ragged clothes. He removed the heels off of an old pair of shoes, carried a cane and a he wore a very floppy old hat in which he had shot three bullet holes. He started out walking in the direction of the probable hangout of the two wanted criminals. He walked the twenty-eight miles before he reached his destination which was the home of mother of the two boys.

When he reached the home, the mother of the two boys came out to see what he wanted. Reeves played the part of a real tramp and asked for a bite to eat, remarking that he was very hungry and that his feet were blistered as he had come a long way and this was his first stop; that the men of the law were hard on his trail and had even shot at him making the three bullet holes in his hat. The woman replied, "I will be glad to give you something to eat." She invited

Reeves into her house. While he was eating, the woman gave an account that interested Reeves. Her two boys were always wanted by the law and that they were always being pursued by the law.

After Reeves had finished his meal, he still feigned weariness and requested to stay a while longer. The woman gave the consent but remarked, "It would be a good plan that you and my two boys join forces so that you can be a protection to one another."

After night had fallen, Reeves thought he heard a sharp whistle from the creek. The old woman went outside and gave an answer. Then two riders rode up where the mother talked to them for a long while but they all finally came into the house. They all finally agreed to join forces and work together.

When they were preparing to go to bed, a bed for Reeves was made in a separate room but he suggested that they all sleep in one room by saying, "Something might happen and if we are separated we couldn't be much protection to one another." So they all prepared to sleep in one room. The two boys slept on the floor.

While in bed, Reeves kept a watchful eye on the boys. Just as soon as the boys were asleep, Reeves left his bed and managed to handcuff the pair without

awakening them. He waited until early morning before he awoke them but he was ready to leave out when it was time. He kicked the boys from their sleep and said, "Come on, boys, let's get going from here." When the two boys were fully awake they realized that they were in the hands of the law. When Reeves started out with the boys to his camp twenty-eight miles away, the mother followed him for three miles cursing him and calling him all sorts of names. The two prisoners were forced to walk every bit of the twenty-eight miles.

Upon reaching his camp, Reeves found all his followers there waiting for him and he remarked, "Maybe you think my money won't turn green now, boys." He meant that he expected to obtain the \$5,000.00 reward.