

T-621-1 (First of Five Interviews)
MARY RED EAGLE, QUAPAW
INTERVIEWED BY: VELMA NEIBERDING
INTERVIEW DATE: DECEMBER 15, 1969
TRANSCRIBED BY: MONETTE COOMBES
TRANSCRIPTION CHECKED BY: MONETTE COOMBES

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-
Cawaga