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EARLY DAY INCIDENTS

An interview of Sam J. Haynes, age 73,
Chief of Tulwa Thakko town, (Tulwa)
Okmulgee, Oklahoma

Billie Byrd, Field Worker
Indian-Pioneer History
7-26-37

Tulwa Thakko was another tribal town that came to the Indian Territory from Alabama but this tribe did not go through all the hardships as those that were driven and forced to leave the old homes. Tulwa Thakko was among the first that left the old home country for the Indian Territory and the last tribes to leave were the ones that were driven and forced to leave that suffered most on the trip.

My father, William Haynes, was the chief of Tulwa Thakko and he was the one that led that tribe into the Indian Territory. My father died in 1881 and the busk grounds that he was chief of ceased to function. His successor as chief was Henry Johnson and after his death his brother became chief and on his death I became chief and have been chief ever since. The members of Tulwa Thakko town (tulwa) are few in number and scattered. There was recently, a new busk ground established some fifteen miles east of Henryetta, Oklahoma.

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but it is not so active as other tribal towns.

I was taken to the south to Texas and lived along the Red River during the Civil War, but I do not remember much of those days.

At the young age of twenty-one, I served as captain of the Lighthorsemen of the Okmulgee District. I don't say for certain but it seems to me that I was the youngest captain in the Muskogee-Creek nation. I served for one term, a term being two year's time. I served one term as prosecuting attorney and one term as judge of the Okmulgee District.

The Dawes Commission employed me during one of the Loyal Creek payments to serve as interpreter and one to identify the Indians who came in answer to the name. I guess I knew most of the Indians, but if I was doubtful I left further investigations to be conducted by a committee especially appointed. The payments could not be made until I gave my approval.

I don't know if I served my duty fully to carry out that law and order of that time, but these things were necessary for a man, he had to have courage, alertness, fast thinking and common sense. Criminals and other desperate characters had to be faced almost

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at the cost of one's life. Only one district was given the authority to bring in a wanted man even if he was in one of the other districts. He was to be brought in dead or alive. Law breakers were hunted regardless of the weather, be it freezing cold or hot.

Once, the Lighthorsemen of the Okmulgee District were given orders to bring in a murderer, Genawee, a member of the Tuskegee tribal town (tulwa). I think that he heard from some source that I was to be responsible for his capture and word reached me that he had said, "That young man will not capture men." I reply, I vowed, "I am a man, too. I will meet up with him face to face before long and we will see who is the real man."

One cold winter night, I took two of my men with me and we started for a place as I had heard where a horse race to held the next day a few miles west of the present Beggs. I, also, had heard that Genawee was to be there and enter his horse in the race, so I had decided to make investigations and maybe make an arrest conditions were favorable and I saw him.

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It was early the next morning that we came in sight of the home of an Indian. We dismounted and tied our horses in some thickets and walked up to the house. It was only two miles from the race track and we entered the house to warm and obtain breakfast before proceeding on to the racing scene. We were at the table eating breakfast when we saw a man approach the house on horseback. We stopped eating and quieted all the table noise and waited to see what the man would do. He never got off of his horse but just stopped outside and looked all around. He rode off presently. He was a lookout for Genawee and we immediately followed him towards the race course without his knowing that he was being followed.

As we neared the race course, I told one of my men to climb one of the tall trees and see what could be seen. He came down from the tree and reported that the race was about to start. He made rapid progress towards the race track. On reaching the track we spied Genawee and made the arrest and made the start for a return trip to Okmulgee where he was to be tried and prosecuted.

Genawee, on his horse, was bound and tied by the men. On the way, he requested me to race with him, but I refused.

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an escape. He had a slicker tied on behind his saddle which he was trying to reach but never did. When it had become dark, he did make a dash for a getaway. I fired at the horse and the other men fired shots too but he got away.

We rode on in to Okmulgee and arrived at the council house. The next morning, with fresh horses, we returned to the spot of the shooting but did not see the man. ~~There were freshly made wagon tracks. A few steps away we noticed a place where a man had seemed to struggle.~~ We realized that Genawee had been loaded into a wagon carried off. We found his horse and searched the slicker and found a buck horn handled forty-five.

We followed the wagon tracks until we arrived at the home of some negroes and found a negress washing out some bloody sheets. We questioned her and learned that Genawee had died that morning and had been taken down to the neighbor Indian's home. When we arrived at the Indian home, the women came out and gave me a thrashing with words. We immediately left the place and returned to Okmulgee. Sam Hawkins was the name of the companion of Genawee and there being no charge against him.

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he was never arrested. He later became a good man and died a natural death.

As captain of the lighthorse men, I received \$300.00 a year.

Any prisoner's hands and feet were securely tied and bound to a post since there were no regular place to confine them. The prisoner's were constantly guarded by some of the Lighthorsemen, day and night. A prisoner was tried within three or four days and either whipped or killed. Six days was the longest ~~period of time~~ that a prisoner was kept bound. A certain man was appointed to feed the prisoners and received \$1.00 a day for his services.

During my terms as prosecuting attorney I never did fail to convict a prisoner. In order to to this I had to make a full investigation and thoroughly question the different witnesses. If I was successful in bringing about the conviction of a prisoner, I received \$25.00 per prisoner. I have convicted as many as twenty-five prisoners at one time. One prisoner was never tried but was released through a bondsman and when three or four prisoners were on hand, a trial of all was held. Sometimes a prisoner would request

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the chief of the nation to give him a pardon. This request was often fulfilled.

The last Indian method of punishment was inflicted on Tiamie Jack, an Indian, who had killed his friend through jealousy over a girl. He was tried and convicted and shot in a standing position. The story of this incident is related on the monument that stands on the council house yard at Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

It was some time during the early days that some quapaws (called quapalke by Muscogee-Creeks) had established their hunting grounds along the North Canadian River, west of Okmulgee, where they fished and trapped. Although they were quapaws from their own reservation in northeastern Indian Territory, they had built small log cabins where they lived. They trapped minks, otters and other fur-bearing animals and were good traders. When enough fur had been accumulated, the quapaws would return to their own country or go on to trade at some of the larger trading posts.