

HICKS, H. W. INTERVIEW.

CARSELOWEY, JAMES R. OUTLAWS OF EARLY DAYS. 7605.

Field Worker

September 22, 1937

An Interview with H. W. Hicks,
Vinita, Oklahoma.

Dick Glass was quite a notorious outlaw of the 80's. He had been forced to leave the neighborhood of his native Creek Nation, near Wagoner, following his cattle stealing, the killing of young Billie Cobb, and the wounding of Alex Norman of the Cherokee side of the line. The latter resulted in a near Cherokee-Creek war.

After being run out of the Creek Nation he took up his abode in the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, and along with his other lawlessness took to bootlegging on a large scale. He sold by the barrel instead of the pint or quart. His base of operations was in the neighborhood of Stonewell. The same prohibition laws were in force then as we had when statehood came, and it was Uncle Sam's business to keep out all intoxicating liquors from the limits of the Five Civilized Tribes. For this purpose an Indian Police force was maintained with headquarters at Muskogee, and Sam Sixkiller was the chief of the force.

One day word was telegraphed to Muskogee that a covered wagon with several darkies in it, leading a horse behind, had

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passed Colbert, the last station on the M. K. & T Railroad north of Red River, going toward Dennison.

A hint to the wise was sufficient, and the next day there unloaded from the Katy train several Indian Police officials. Two or three local officers were waiting to meet them, and had horses saddled and all ready to go.

When they started out to way-lay the covered wagon they found that it had already passed, and on the return the posse picked up a colored man from the neighborhood and deputized him to act as scout and guide. With the colored man riding ahead they trailed the wagon all afternoon, and until they located their camp on a creek about thirty miles northwest of Colbert. Then, without showing themselves, the posse passed around the outlaws' camp and secreted themselves in the timber on each side of the road where the outlaws would pass, and waited until morning.

After the outlaws had eaten their breakfast they resumed the journey, two of them walking behind the wagon and two riding in the seat in front. Thus they went right into the trap of the officers, and the first hint of it was when the call to surrender and throw up their hands came.

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Instead of obeying the command, each man went for his gun, which they had strapped around them. When the smoke of battle had cleared away the two who had been walking in the road were dead, another had been wounded and was running through the brush along the creek. The other man in the wagon had fallen down inside the wagon bed and they naturally thought he was dead, too. They all took in after the man who ran down the creek, capturing him and bringing him back to the wagon.

When the officers returned they found that the man they had thought dead, in the wagon, had unhitched the team and had gone, riding one horse with the other still hitched to it.

The only man already mounted was their colored scout, and he took the trail expecting to follow it on foot if necessary, but found that instead of staying in the timber where he would have had a good chance to elude the posse, he was evidently excited and stayed on the wagon road. Being burdened with an extra horse, harnessed and fastened to its mate, he made very poor time and the colored scout soon overtook him. The members of the posse caught up and closed in on him, the only way to save his life was to stop and surrender, which he did.

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The colored scout was quite pleased with his part in the capture, and in telling about it said, "I was sure skeered at fust, but when I got close enough I jerked out my six-shooter, and the mo' I shot the better I got." He had emptied his gun but did not touch either the horse or man.

The posse returned to the wagon, loaded the two dead men and the badly wounded man in the wagon, and with the one captured alive returned to Colbert before night.

I had seen Dick Glass before. He was run out of the Creek Nation. He had a bad scar across the side of his neck, running from his ear down to his chest, caused by a burn of some kind, over which the skin had grown back red instead of black. He also had a scar on one hand, made by a bullet which had passed through it when he was in one of his shooting scrapes. Dr. Williams of Muskogee, told me he had met Glass in the middle of the Arkansas River, north of Muskogee, and had dressed his hand for him.

When I examined his body there was no mistaking the identity as both scars were there as described above. Glass was filled with buck-shot from waist line to neck, and had been hit in the side of the head with a Winchester bullet passing clear through the head, back of the eyes.

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The other darkey killed was not identified. He was copper colored, and had a bullet hole in the center of his chest and another through his head.

The wounded man had been sitting in the seat beside the driver, and one of the officer's bullets had gone through the wagon box before striking him and had thus been deflected, and kept from killing him. I think he later died from the wound.

There was a full sized barrel of whiskey in the back end of the wagon, several Winchesters one pearl handled 45 revolver, two ivory handled pistols and one or two plain old frontiers. The fire arms were divided among the posse.

Glass had a fine shooting Winchester Carbine, a 40-60, which was left with me for more than a year before the officer who fell heir to it had me ship it to him. This was the end of the outlaw, Dick Glass.

H. W. Hicks who gives the foregoing story about Dick Glass was station agent for the M. K. & T. at Culbert, I. T. at the time the incidents related happened.

Chief Sixkiller of the Indian Police and his force conferred with Mr. Hicks before taking Glass' trail and on being

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informed that he had seen Glass and he would know him again, they decided to bring back the outlaw for Mr. Hicks to identify.

This is how Mr. Hicks came to examine the body of Dick Glass after his killing by the Indian Police.