

Alene D. McDowell
Research Field Worker S-149

255

Biography of John Sarcoxie
A Full-blood Delaware
Given by
Mrs. Frances Sarcoxie, wife.

John Sarcoxie was born while his parents were on a hunting trip near Vinita, Oklahoma, on Cowskin Prairie, in the Spring at corn planting time about 1845. He was registered in Kansas, as their home was there. He had very little education and could not read or write until later years. However, he went to the Indian school at Leavenworth, Kansas in his early years. He was taught by a man named Pratt.

Mr. Sarcoxie's parents died when he was small and he made his home with his grandfather, a Delaware Chief. His name also was John Sarcoxie. He was a warrior with Custer's army. One time when his grandfather was with Custer on a trip after the Indians, young John was just a small lad, he followed them, keeping out of sight until evening. He was discovered and sent back home. His uncle, Wilson Sarcoxie, acted as a guide for Custer's army.

Grandfather Sarcoxie always had a string of ponies, and this trait was handed down to John. He kept a string of Indian ponies until he moved to Bartlesville a few years before his death.

Mr. Sarcoxie was married twice. After his first marriage he came to the Indian Territory from Kansas. His wife was a full blood Delaware Indian, whose name was Elizabeth. She died after coming to the Territory. His second marriage was at Alluwe, Indian Territory, to a white woman of German descent. They were married on August 7, 1895 by Reverend William Adams, a Baptist preacher. They were married according to the Indian Law and had no license. Mrs. Sarcoxie came to the Indian Territory in 1889. To this union were born seven children. One died at the age of two years; the rest of them reside in Oklahoma. Their children were all born in the same house.

Mrs. Sarcoxie has a table she used when she first started housekeeping in 1895. She also has her mother's feather bed, pillows and picture album brought to Oklahoma in 1889 and has her maternal grandmother's weaving shuttle she brought from Germany. She has a Delaware Law Book that belonged to Mr. Sarcoxie, also a tool he used to make shingles and a work bridle bit she has had for years.

Mr. Sarcoxie was a Baptist preacher and missionary. He was licensed to preach in 1884 and was ordained May 21, 1888. A certificate of his ordination was hanging in the

room, the certificate read:

"This certifies that John Sarcoxie was set apart to the work of the gospel ministry by prayer and the laying of the hands of the Presbytry at Alluwe, Indian Territory, on the 21st day of May, 1888; that his ordination was by an act of a council called by the Delaware Baptist Church, of which he was a member, which council was composed of the following brethren; Reverend Daniel Rogers, Reverend A. A. McLeod, of the Tahlequah Baptist Church and Reverend J. S. Henry, of the Reverend Charles Journeycake, Charles Armstrong and Andrew Miller representing the Delaware Church, that after hearing an interesting and satisfactory statement from the candidate, of his Christian experience, call to the ministry and views of Christian doctrine, the council unanimously advised proceeding to ordination, which services were carried out at the time and place above mentioned.

Signed Daniel Rogers
Moderator

Baptised Nov. 10, 1882.

John Sarcoxie
Candidate

Mr. Sarcoxie was a missionary to the Indians and white settlers in this community for a number of years,

... needed to ... the ... church ... in ...
... the ... church ...
... the ... church ...
... the ... church ...

... the ... church ...
... the ... church ...
... the ... church ...
... the ... church ...
... the ... church ...

The ... church ...
... the ... church ...

Mrs. ... told ... Indian ...
... the ... church ...
... the ... church ...
... the ... church ...

The congregation... stood up... wherever
the... seat. He had everything to eat and
... the...
... the... and they

... the...
... the...

... the meeting... The...
... that... the...
... she had at...
... that... the...
... the... the...
... the...

... the...
... the...
... the...

The... were... and...
... the... community. After this meeting, has lost-

... one morning, the preacher spoke against
... and most of the Indians and part of the
white people left the church before he finished his sermon.
This ended the... left the community, a very
in... man.

Mr. Sarcosie lead a very active life and acted as

Armstrong place, at the north end of what is now Seneca
 name.

The first school house was located near where the
 Caney River dam is now located. The first teacher was
 Albert Rupert, and the second teacher was Alice Olson,
 who passed away last year. We also held church in this
 school house with Frank Overbeek as our superintendent.

Bill Ramsey, brother of Mrs. Sarcouxie, who now lives
 at Chelstat, Oklahoma helped to haul the first oil field
 equipment to Bartlesville from below Tulsa. They crossed
 the Arkansas River at Red Fork, south of Tulsa. They
 left here with twelve wagons and the roads were so bad
 they had to leave them along the way and when they return-
 ed they only had about half of them. The logs were hewed
 out to build the rigs.

Mrs. Sarcouxie's father died in 1890 at Bartlesville
 and is buried at Elk City, Kansas, and her mother died in
 1927 at Bartlesville and is buried at the Silver Lake
 Cemetery, south of Bartlesville.