

SIMMONS, MAYME

INTERVIEW

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Billie Byrd,
Journalist,
Dec. 31, 1937.

An Interview of Mayme Simmons,
Age 38, Indian, Okemah, Okla.

My father has told of the part he took when the Buck gang of outlaws held up the little store located north from here known then as Norburg. My father, W. F. Stoddard, was just a young fellow but he had gone to the store for some things when the hold-up took place.

Everyone around the store was so startled and scared they didn't know what to do and couldn't do anything because the gang of outlaws were said to never fool around with anyone who didn't do their bidding, so the people just did what they were ordered to do and the owners of the store didn't do anything but say, "Just take anything you want but don't harm the people or us". At that time there were quite a number of people in the store doing their trading, but that didn't hinder the robbers.

DENOMINATIONS.

I have heard the story of how the three denominations in the Muskogee-Creek tribe came to be in use but it is just a legend, and how it was thought the churches sprang up.

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A group of people had just been through a baptism at a stream of water and it was just soon after the people had left the scene of the baptism with their convert, that three Indian men came upon the banks of the stream and began a discussion of just how the baptism had been made. They were trying to ascertain whether the person had been immersed in water, had had water poured on the head, or had been sprinkled.

These three men argued and argued about what system had been used and without finally reaching a decision, these three men separated, each sticking to his own belief as to the manner followed in the baptism.

These three men, after leaving one another, joined or became converted in the way they had stood for during the argument at the stream of water. One became a Baptist, another a Methodist, while the third man became a Presbyterian and that was the way the legend has it that the Indians took up their denominations.