

CRAZY SNAKE REBELLION  
AND BATTLE GROUND 7566  
COW TOWNS 8999  
THE CHEROKEE STRIP 8999a

INDEX CARDS:

Creek Nation  
Crazy Snake  
Hickory Grounds  
Creek Freedmen  
Texas Trail  
Cherokee Strip

Jefferson Beryhill  
Interviewer  
July 28, 1937.

An Interview with  
Sonny Jackson  
Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

#### CRAZY SNAKE REBELLION AND BATTLE GROUND.

Mr. Sonny Jackson said he knew Crazy Snake very well as he used to see him many times. Although he did not see the battle, his friend, who took part in the battle, told him the happenings.

When Crazy Snake and his people rebelled, he gathered his people and some negroes, who stood by him, together. He was holding meetings at the place called the Hickey Grounds, about six miles south-west of Henryetta; there he would meet his people and go out to steal horses, cows, saddles, anything of value they could get hold of.

Rumors flew thick and fast. At last the law and some farmers from Eufaula and Muskogee organized a group of men; they came to stop his plundering. When he found out that they were coming after him, he gathered his men and waited. When they came, they asked him to surrender and submit to arrest peaceably; but

- 2 -

he refused and resisted as he had refused the enrollment and allotment of land, so he fought back and there was a battle.

Mr. Jackson said Crazy Snake, who was a medicine man and who believed in his medicine, depended on his medicine; they fought bravely and were winning the battle when Crazy Snake was shot down. When he was shot down, his friend came to where he had fallen, started to carry him from the battle but the enemy came on trying to reach him before he was carried to safety as they wanted him alive; but they had no luck for the Indian, standing over his fallen master, shot down four men who were quite a distance away. He was known to be a good shot with a gun, so unmolested he carried his chief away from the battle. Seeing the fallen leader the others gave up; some escaped as did Crazy Snake and about thirteen or fourteen of Snake's men were arrested and taken to Muskogee for trial.

One man who was very sick when arrested and taken to jail was brought back to his home and there after a few days he died.

Crazy Snake or Chitto Harjo, who did not die when he was shot down, recovered and escaped to Mexico and has

- 3 -

never been apprehended.

It is said that he is still alive although he has become an old man.

Note: Jefferson Berryhill is a full blood Creek Indian, who expresses his interviews in a typical Indian manner; no change to better his English is attempted. Ed.