

Notice of Copyright

Published and unpublished materials may be protected by Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code). Any copies of published and unpublished materials provided by the Western History Collections are for research, scholarship, and study purposes only.

Use of certain published materials and manuscripts is restricted by law, by reason of their origin, or by donor agreement. For the protection of its holdings, the Western History Collections also reserves the right to restrict the use of unprocessed materials, or books and documents of exceptional value and fragility. Use of any material is subject to the approval of the Curator.

Citing Resources from the Western History Collections

For citations in published or unpublished papers, this repository should be listed as the Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

An example of a proper citation:

Oklahoma Federation of Labor Collection, M452, Box 5, Folder 2. Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

FRANK, LINA R.

THIRD INTERVIEW

10644

LEGEND & STORY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

99

BANKS, LENA R. THIRD INTERVIEW 10644

Field worker's name Bessie L. Thomas,

This report made on (date) May 5, 1938

1. This legend was secured from (name) Mrs. Lena Banks,
address Cache, Oklahoma.

This person is (~~XXXXXX~~female) White, ~~XXXXX~~, ~~XXXXXX~~,
If Indian, give tribe White, female.

2. Origin and history of legend or story Mrs. Banks told me this
story from memory and actual facts.

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank
space to attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets
attached 6

BANKS, LENA R. . THIRD INTERVIEW#

10644

Bessie L. Thomas,
Investigator,
May 5, 1938.

Interview with Mrs. Lena R. Banks,
Cache, Oklahoma.

In 1892, Juanah Parker had five wives. They had been married by the Indian custom and he had by these wives, fifteen children.

His first, and oldest wife, we-Ke-Ah, had charge of all his personal papers. His second wife, Wh-We-Tah-quah, fed and curried his horses, took care of all the harness and saddle horses and also helped harness or saddle his horse whenever he wanted to ride or drive anywhere. His third wife, Su-Ta-quah, did all his laundry, took care of his fancy clothes and saw that every garment he owned was always mended and ready at all times for him to wear. His fourth wife, Nan-Noo-ly, did all the cooking and preparing of the meals. His fifth wife, Pop-Pye-Ah-wah-mah, carried all the water, chopped the wood, swept and cleaned the yards.

About nine miles down the creek from Juanah lived an Indian girl, who, when she was very young, had been

BANKS, LENA R.

THIRD INTERVIEW

10644

-2-

sold for so much bounty by her mother to an "old" Indian man, whom she hated and loathed, because he was so mean to her. This girl in her youth was very beautiful and had been in love with Quannah for many years. They often had clandestine meetings, as Quannah loved her too. Each time they met he told her it would be impossible to take her home with him as either his wives or her husband would kill her.

On a certain day this girl's husband tried to make her do something she disliked, so that night she waited until he was asleep then slipped out of the house. Never thinking of the danger from wild animals in the forest, she made her way that dark night, afoot, to Quannah's home, reaching it just before daylight. Quannah had a room on the ground floor all to himself. This room was furnished beautifully with pretty and expensive Indian articles, also other beautiful presents that had been given him by his many white friends. Quannah owned horses and cattle by the hundreds, he did not know really how many he owned.

BANKS, LENA R.

THIRD INTERVIEW

10644

-3-

He had any number of beautiful buckskin suits and head-dresses together with several civilian suits. He was a handsome Indian in his younger days and always wore midnight blue suits.

On the night that this beautiful Indian girl, Too-Ni-Ca, left her husband and reached Juanah's home she made her presence known by tapping on his window. There were no screens on the window so he opened it, and let her into his room.

She told him why she had come and they talked of what to do. He told her again it would be impossible to keep her in his home as his wives would kill her. Finally he told her to go about one-half mile to the home of a white man by the name of Granthum and tell him that he, Juanah, had sent her, for Granthum to keep her hid, cautioning his family not to dare reveal her presence and for her to stay there until he came for her. This she did, and the white man hid her in his home.

Sometime during the next day, Juanah had his buggy greased, his best team harnessed and hitched to the buggy.

-4-

He drove off without saying a word or telling anyone where he was going. He drove straight to Granthum's, picked up Too-Ni-Ce, and they drove to North Fork to the Herring and Stimson Ranch where Quanah had friends and stayed part of that night. Just before daylight they started for Vernon, Texas, and stayed that night with some people by the name of Chrapshire, whom Quanah had known in an early day. This man had a daughter who had taught school in old Greer County. Through this young lady, Quanah purchased clothes for his new love, telling the white girl to buy his young love all the new and beautiful clothes she desired for he wanted her to be dressed like "white woman". So he spent hundreds of dollars to dress up Too-Ni-Ce.

From there they went to Old Mexico, stopping on the way with friends of Quanah who gave him all the money he wanted.

They lived in Old Mexico for three months and no one ever heard from them during this time.

-5-

When Quannah's disappearance became known at home, it was reported to the Indian Department at Anadarko. A search was started as his people didn't know what had become of him. They thought maybe he had been murdered or some other misfortune had overtaken him. When the husband of Too-Ni-Ce reported "her" missing, suspicions were aroused.

The Indian Department sent out a scout to hunt for Quannah and soon had trace of them through the friends they had stayed with in their flight.

They were finally found through the efforts of the Mexican and United States Governments and brought back. Too-Ni-Ce was taken to Anadarko where Quannah left her and where she was guarded for fear of her life.

Quannah went home and his wives asked him if all this story they had heard was true. He told them it was.

Wife Number One packed her clothes, picked up her kids and left. Wife Number Two made a fuss and he kicked her, telling her to get out. Wives Number three and Four

BANKS, LENA R.

THIRD INTERVIEW

10644

-6-

said nothing. Wife Number Five got smart, raised a fuss and he also kicked her out and sent her and her kids away.

An Indian police was sent out to make some kind of an agreement between the wives who were left and Quannah, after Too-Ni-Ce said she would die before she would go back to her husband. An agreement was reached and Too-Ni-Ce became Quannah's favorite wife and reigned supreme in his home until his death.

She still lives today not far from Quannah's home.

It cost Quannah the greater part of his horses, cattle, and most of his beautiful personal belongings to make peace with all concerned and took six months to settle. He afterwards made Too-Ni-Ce his legal wife.