

MA-NA-KA, MARY.

INTERVIEW

12852

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Form D-(S-149)
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LEGEND & STORY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field worker's name R. B. Thomas

This report made on (date) January 31 1938

1. This legend was Mary Ma-Na- Ka
secured from (name) _____

Address Fletcher, Oklahoma.

This person is (~~male~~ or female) ~~male~~, ~~male~~, Indian,

If Indian, give tribe Kiowa Indian

2. Origin and history of legend or story This is a true story of
a Kiowa Chief of Kiowa County, Oklahoma.

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

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R. B. Thomas
Interviewer
January 31, 1938.

Interview with Mary Ma-na-ka,
Fletcher, Oklahoma.

Story of A-peahstone, Kiowa Chief.

My brother, A-peahstone, was born in 1856. Our grandmother was a Royal Sioux and Father was a brother to Lone Wolf, Kiowa Chief, he lived in Kiowa County near Mountain View, Oklahoma. A-peahstone was appointed Chief solely on merit; usually this position is hereditary, but he was a man of keen intellect and good judgment, therefore, he was selected Chief of the Kiowas.

There is a small town southwest of Walters in Cotton County named for A-peahstone. He was loyal to his tribe and he and Chief Quanah Parker made frequent trips to Washington in behalf of their respective tribes. The Kiowas loved this chief; he was a personal friend to the Reverend J. J. Mathvin of Anadarko and also of Andres Martinez, the Mexican captive who lived in Anadarko.

In 1890 the Plains tribes in New Mexico, North Dakota, Arizona, and Oklahoma Territory all began a dance which they called the Ghost Dance. The dancers would dance until they

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became exhausted because the one who danced the longest was to be chosen the leader, to lead the Indians after the white men had been destroyed and the buffalo had returned. The Agency at Anadarko appealed to the dancers to cease their dancing but they said it was a religious dance and the Government could not stop them. So they danced on and the dance went on night and day for several months. The Kiowas, the better element of them, decided to send A-peantone to find out what started this craze which was spreading fast. The teacher in every camp was requiring the Indians to pay him ponies and blankets and he was making a lot of money out of it for the longer the dance lasted the more ponies and blankets he collected. He told the Government officials that the laws of Oklahoma Territory protected religious dances and the officials were powerless to stop it.

A-peantone traveled to Pine Ridge Agency in Utah and tried to find the self-styled Messiah, but was informed no such person was there. However, they told him they thought he was on the Reservation in Nevada so he traveled far on horseback with the aid of some of the friends in other tribes who also were interested

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in finding out about this craze which was sweeping the country.

He finally arrived at Pyramid Lake among the Utes and their Chief, Sitting Bull, was finally located. He was in seclusion and the Indians told A-peahstone they could not find him, but he told them he was also a Chief and wanted to learn the dance and its secrets so he was finally admitted, after hours of delay. He found an old ignorant Indian who had preached that the Messiah was coming soon to destroy the white man and put the Indian back in charge of the country and that the buffalo would return in great herds.

It was an easy matter to make believers of thousands of Indians, but A-peahstone soon saw that it was a hoax so he returned home and called a meeting at Anadarko for all tribes. They exposed Sitting Bull and forced the teacher to return all the ponies and blankets and leave the country, thus ending the Ghost Dance craze. A-peahstone did something that the Government officials could not do- ended this craze.

A-peahstone was honest, kind, very dignified and proud. He visited in Lawton on several occasions and visited Chief Quannah Parker often, for they were working together for the good of their tribes.