

INDEX CARDS

Sac and Fox Indians  
Dances--Sac and Fox  
Openings--Sac and Fox

Field Worker: Lenna M Rushing  
Date: March 6, 1937

364

BIOGRAPHY OF Mr. Paul Gokey (We-to-tha-qua)  
Meeker, Oklahoma

BORN September or October 1871  
Kansas

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One day I was out with a bunch of men riding around on the North Canadian bottom when several cowboys came riding up to us. They asked us if we would be interested in helping drive some horses to Chandler, and we agreed to go. There were around thirty horses bought from Indians around there who had large herds. Most of the Indians did have lots of horses in those days.

We went in the general direction of Sparks and Payson, then headed west for Chandler. When we got there, there were many families camped. It already looked like a town to me. The town lots had been marked off, and every thing was ready for the run. The cowboys sold their horses to people who wanted to use them in the run. The following day the people were ordered off the territory, and everyone went to the place of starting on the west side of the town. As I was an Indian, I didn't have any interest in running for a lot, so I looked on. At the signal to start, things started popping. Lots of the wagons stalled going up that steep hill, and some of them broke down. The men would jump on the horses, and keep on going. When they found their lots, they sent back after their families. However, no one could leave the lot alone until their claim was filed. Some shooting took place, but not as much as there was at the opening of Lincoln County. There was lots of smoke and dust in the air, and I felt like I would choke several times.

Field worker: Lenna M. Rushing  
March 4, 1937

365

BIOGRAPHY OF Paul Gokey

Indian Name: We-to-tha-qua, Sac and Fox

Méeker, Oklahoma

BORN

September 1871  
Kansas

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I must have been fourteen or fifteen. We had been in Oklahoma just a few years, having come from Kansas. My folks and I went to a Drum Dance at the old dance ground four miles east of Aydelotte across the road from Pataquio's place. Towards noon we saw a whole lot of people coming from the south but we didn't know what they were there for. We knew that the government had given the the government surveyors the right to enter the territory, but this couldn't be they, because there were women and children besides the men. They kept coming all day, and they seemed to be very excited. There was a lot of shooting and fighting going on, and I saw several men killed. They burnt the prairies and there sure was lots of smoke. I found out afterwards that the land had been opened to the white and that they were burning the prairie to find the eighty-acre markers. The Indian land was already marked, and they had to find land that didn't belong to the Indians. After all the excitement was over, we continued our dance.

(End)