

INDEX CARDS

Harjo, Chitto
Snake Indians

SNAKE UPRISING

An interview with S. M. Gipson, age 73,
at the Council House, Okmulgee, Oklahoma

Billie Byrd, Field Worker
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Crazy Snake or Chitto Harjo was the considered leader and spokesman for a certain group of full blood Indians of the Muskogee-Creek tribe opposing the allotment of lands.

His stand was based on the many agreements and promises of the government and other people that set out in detail that after the Muskogee-Creek tribe was established West of the Mississippi River no further changes would be made and a primitive life as of the past in the old country would be enjoyed.

It was for a time the life of peace, plenty, and freedom as had been promised for the Muskogee-Creek tribe.

Then came the time of the Civil War and some of the Indians were forced into the scene of battle to die innocently in a strife of which the Indian had no interest. Some of them were forced to make the trip to Kansas amid hard times, sufferings, deprivations, and sickness to escape the ravages of this war.

All these events were only leading up to the time when the agreements, treaties, or promises so freely acknowledged

were not to be kept.

During 1908 many rumors about an uprising with Crazy Snake as the moving factor were everywhere but that uprising never materialized to do much harm.

Even the State Militia was called to investigate the rumors to quiet the fears of the white settlers.

The State Militia never found Crazy Snake.

The followers of Crazy Snake were enrolled for allotments against their wishes. There were almost 1200 Indians who were not in favor of this allotment system. The primitive mode of living was desired. Some of these allotments have been valuable in mineral products especially in gas or oil.

About five or six miles southeast of Henryetta is the settlement of the Hickory Ground Indians. Most of the members of this settlement are descendants of the followers of Crazy Snake and have not yet fully affiliated with the other members of the Muskogee-Creek tribe in their regular tribal and council meetings.

Crazy Snake died at the home of his Choctaw friend, Daniel Bob, in the Choctaw country.