

LIENEMAN, PETER T.

SIXTH INTERVIEW

2021 66

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10214.

Linnaeus B. Ranck,
Investigator,
March 3, 1938.

Interview With P. T. Lieneman,
May, Oklahoma.

This burial ground located in Harper County, Section 36, Township 25, Range 22, was established in the early '70's by the Indians who happened to be on the military reservation about old Fort Supply and was the first one used by the Indians at that place. The land was originally a part of the military reservation but at the present time is owned by Hal Cooper of Woodward. When I came to Fort Supply early in '81 there were five thousand Indians about the fort, a lot of them Northern Cheyenne. Between fifteen and twenty bodies were put away in this old cemetery but were not buried in the ground, instead they were tied up in the tops of large cottonwood trees. The large grove of cottonwoods where the Indians used to deposit their deceased tribesmen was adjacent to a tract of land on the north side of old Beaver Creek northeast of the fort that the Government plowed up and turned to the Indians for a garden. Therefore, the old Indian graveyard northeast of the fort commonly was

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referred to as the Indian Garden. The military authorities at Fort Supply came to look upon the Indian manner of disposing of their dead with much disfavor and during the early '80's the Indians discontinued placing their deceased tribesmen in the tree tops northeast of the fort and then selected a new and the last burial place, a low place between the sand hills southeast of the fort about two miles.

There have been so many changes in the landscape that I cannot locate the exact spot where this old burial ground used to be. Beaver Creek has changed its course considerably and cut out a lot of timber and I am unable to locate the exact location of this burial ground where the Indians disposed of their dead by tying them in trees.