

INDEX CARDS

Spybuck, Henry
Shawnees
Delawares
Skiatook
Sperry
Absentee Shawnees
Dances--Shawnee
Superstitions--Shawnee
Farming--Shawnee
Drunkenness--Shawnee

Jesse Chisholm
Field Worker

Indian-Pioneer History 444
Thomas F. Meagher, Supervisor
Tulsa, Okla

THE SHAWNEE SETTLEMENT
(on Bird Creek-Tulsa County)
Interview with Henry Spybuck

As far back as I could remember Henry Spybuck came here from Kansas. After the Civil War was over with and stopped. Coming here with a few Shawnee and Delawares, he settled on a little place near Slatook Okla. There his tribe men, established a gathering place called a war dance-ground. Dont get these two gathering mix up. Now days you hear people call it stomp grounds. Creek Indians is the only one has those stomp grounds. All so called is-ba-ke. Henry Spybuck at the age of 20 married his chief Jimmie Walkers daughter. Her name was Mary W alkes. After marriage he moved several of miles south to a place now called S perry Okla. There he settle down. Build several log houses, dug water well shelters for his stock, put out a big orchard. Went to raising hogs, cattle, also had several races horses. Went to clearing land. In a few years he had in thousand acres in corn and wheat. Every summer he would put up from tento fifteen stacks of hay. In few years he had plenty. The Chief and tribe decided to appointed him as Chief which they did. Later in years he would turn over his appointment to Bill Washington of Slatook. He was also a great sport and hunter. He could go right to the spot. And kill a deer where 10 men are hunters couldnt ever see grasshopper. He had it on his tribemen a great deal. He seem to have what Creek Indian call he-lo-²so-wa-ji-go. He also played horse raders, and a Mackson hand game. Which cost him several enemiesby winning so. Then he quit his games. Went in to the war dance game. He had several boys, which he would dress up in the old customs, and beat several of war dances

Jesse Chisholm
Shawnee Settlement
Page 2

445

year around. He would set a date every fall or Autumn for war dance practice which he would kill three or four beefs of his own. for feasting and dance. This Dancing is something for others to study about. Some times they have a nice dance some times there dont. Just like this. You have a nice ^(high) school some time you dont. Sometime you have a church, some time you dont. The Indian dance is alright in this way. If you can talk Indian and understand the meaning of songs. And dress your self in your features customs, dress where you wont be ashame of yourself. This dance is to keep your self out of trouble to keep you with plenty of action and pep in case of war, also of many other thing, which is hard to explain. A young men you will see dance in his Indian custom once your you will see he never go. Solum? Those who spoiles the dances is those go to a dance and dance in there civilian clothes. And quart or two under there belt. Dont understand the Indian speeches and reuling ^(roling) which they should go by. While around Indian dances any ^{*} tribe of Indians which is raised on flint corn are natural borned on alcohol. And also what Indians drink so much. There priveleges hunting fishing, bow and arrows are taken away from them. Nothing to do is the reason for drinking so much. This is one of his speeches. In his days while living with wife Mary they ~~XXXX~~ raised two boys. Frank and Will and three girls. Annie, Mary and Jessie. And several grand-children after his wife died, he traviled great deal among other tribes. Till up to his death(11) years ago on the 19th of March 1926. He was some where back in the East. He Shawnee Indian and French. Which is called Spi-to-tha ^(Term applied to half-breeds) meaning hair-face Indians. He was also an Indian Doctor. Which he used altogether steam tipe tee pee herbes and prayes. He grandfather name is Sob-be-willia . meaning gradually? horagrowing gragly out. He father Joe Spybuck brought him along with

Note: The thought he attempts to convey is that the "sofky" drinking Indians like alco



Jesse Chisholm
Shawnee Settlement
Page 3

446

with the absent* T. Shawnee on a long journey. Pen Ohio to Cape ge-rode²
from there to White Oak,³ Okla down to McAlester hill from there to
Johnston county Texas next move to Okla. Just across south Canadian
river from there to place now called Pott County. Shawnee Oklahoma.
From there to Lawrence Kans. later back to Indian territory near Skiatook.
The dance ground near Skiatook was quited. Then another one was made
on Bill Walk allotment. There after dancing there several years couple
of white men killed each other just about hundred out of the dance ground.
Then as custom they usally move over some place else. When any thing like
that happens. They move the dance about (3) hundred yards west and estab-
lished another one there. Later Tommie Jones of Fragere Okla mix Indian
white Cherokee and Sac & Fox Indian Son of Henry Jones a black smith by
interpreter
trade and an Turbert for his tribe. Sac and Fox Indians Tommie was here
for the dance. By the way was killed on the side of the dance ground.
By his Nephern David Tyner of Shawnee Okla on 18 of August 1912. 1913
new dance ground was announced over on Geo. Spybuck place. Near the Spy-
buck bridge. There was the end of Spybuck dance. He all so raise one
Half blood Negro & Chowntaw Indian boy among his boys by the name of Joe
Gaskin. Mr. Spymuck has help a many poor people regardless to color.
He has half brother by the name of Geo Spybuck also is ^{dead} leaving 3
sons, 2 girls. John Spybuck is still alive at Shawnee Okla. John has
son West Tecumeh Okla is great artist with pencil or pen.

Note

* - The Absentee Band of Shawnees.

2 - Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

3 - White Oak, Oklahoma.

4 - Nephew - - - By Thomas F. Meagher, Supervisor.