

CHARLO, HENRY

INTERVIEW⁷

6963

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**INTERVIEW
LEGEND & STORY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION**

6963

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Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field worker's name Nannie Lee Burns

This report made on (date) April 26 1937

1. This legend was secured from (name) Henry Charlo

Address R. F. D. Wyandotte, Oklahoma

This person is (~~name of person, name of tribe~~), Indian,

If Indian, give tribe Wyandotte-Mohawk

2. Origin and history of legend or story Memory

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 5

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Nannie Lee Eurns,
Interviewer,
July 26, 1937.

An Interview with Mr. Henry Charlo,
Wyandotte, Oklahoma, R. F. D.

The man who never went anywhere.

Henry Charlo was born at Buzzard Springs, north-east of here, this side of Seneca, Missouri, March 25, 1865.

I am of Wyandotte and Mohawk descent.

My wife, Minnie Spicer, was born of Seneca parents near Tiff City, Missouri, she thinks in 1868.

Her parents were Dan and Malinda Spicer, (Senecas)

Civil War Days

My father was a soldier in the Northern Army, and the family moved back to Kansas during the War.

School Days

I grew up like most Indian boys of that day, not a great deal of work, a little school. "I never went anywhere." I attended school at the Wyandotte Mission when W. C. Kirk was the superintendent.

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We farmed a little, not much, liked to hunt and fish. My parents went to either Baxter Springs, Kansas, or Neosho, Missouri, for their supplies that we did not get at the commissary.

The Commissary

Originally, there was quite a large building but Quantrill's men destroyed it and later we had a double log building at the Gilstrap Ford, and George Spicer was the head of it. They issued flour, sugar, beans, coffee, farming tools, such as hoes, plows, etc., also clothes and bedding. These were furnished the Indians by the Government, and were hauled here in wagons drawn by big mules from either Baxter Springs or Neosho, Missouri, then the nearest railroad points. It took two days to make the trip. They went one day and returned the next. I made two or three trips to Baxter Springs and went once with them to Neosho. The old building has been torn down and burned.

Horse Racing

We had two race tracks near. One was on Cowakin Creek near the Stomp Grounds, and the other was in the

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valley east of the store. I did own a horse that ran.

We played Indian Foot Ball also, and went with our parents to the different Stomp Dances, but we were taught to keep still. As the old people would not talk when the younger folks were around, I do not know as much as I should about my people and their early history.

Trip to Kansas

When I was sixteen, I left here and went to Mountain, Kansas, where I worked for a Dutchman. I saw in the paper where the Senecas were going to take their allotments, so I rode my yellow buckskin pony home, in two days and a night, a distance of two-hundred miles. There were no roads, and I just took my direction across the country. When it became too dark to ride, I just stopped and waited until I could see the next morning.

The old Baxter Springs Trail goes up over that hill, to a high hill across a little valley in front of my house. You can still see worn places, or traces

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of it.

Marriage.

I married Minnie Spicer, October 18, 1894, and we have three girls and five boys. We live in a two room and attic house that my mother lived in. It has a large room and a shed room down stairs. The house is unpainted and the gravelly yard is surrounded by a neat board fence. There are two native flowering shrubs and two trees in the front yard. One is west of the house and the other a large old tree is north. The Seneca Cut Off Road from #10, just south of the Sycamore store to Seneca, Missouri, passes very close in front of the house. The out buildings are back of the house in the timber out of sight.

Old Cemetery

The old Gilstrap Cemetery, two miles from the Sycamore store contains most of the old Indian graves near here. There are only two stones, those of Spicer Armstrong and Ernest Bear Skin. Mr. Wise now owns the place. It would be very hard to get to it. Also there

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is the old Snow-Young Cemetery on Cowskin. This is owned by a Mr. Geck, a lumberman at Seneca, Missouri. It has no markers.

Dances

The Dog Dance was held when they were traveling. Whenever they stop, they kill a fat dog, fasten ribbons on him, hang him on a pole, and later as they come past him at the close of the dance, they take the ribbons off, take him down and bury him.