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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF ISPARHECHER

Former Chief Idparacher, of the Creek Indians, died suddenly December 24 at Okmulgee, I. T., at the age of 90 years.

Isparacher had been prominent in Creek affairs for three score years and had been connected with every treaty of importance between the United States government and the Indians during that time. Recently he was chosen to represent the tribe in Washington in matters of importance connected with the Creek nation.

Isparacher was without doubt, the most remarkable full-blood Indian in the territory. There are probably other public men among the Five Tribes who were more learned than he, and while most of them have a portion of white blood in them, yet none may be compared with him as a statesman. Not a drop of any other blood flows through his veins save that of the Creek Indian, and his integrity has never been

questioned. An attempt was made in the Creek council a few years ago to impeach him on some frivolous charge, but it was promptly voted down.

Isparacher was born in the old Creek nation, in Alabama, ninety years ago, and when quite young came west with the Creeks. Little was heard of him from that time until the civil war, when he enlisted in the federal army and became a member of the Indian home guards. He served until the close of the war, when he came home and at once became the acknowledged leader of what was known as the loyal Creek party, which was the name given to those Creek Indians who refused to join the Confederacy. After his return home Isparacher was elected judge of one of the district courts of the Creek nation, and held this position until 1883, when Sam Checotah, one of his bitterest enemies, was elected chief of the Creek nation, and Isparacher was removed from office. He believed that he had been unjustly dealt with, and, gathering his forces, he attempted to overthrow the Creek government.

At the head of about 500 men, with the stars and stripes as his banner, he marched through the Creek nation, and but for the timely intervention of

the United States troops would doubtless have taken possession of the capitol of the nation. He retreated with his forces to return to the Creek nation until he and his party were forced to go to Fort Gibson, I. T., by the United States troops and were kept there until they agreed to live quietly in their own nation. This insurrection was known throughout the Creek nation as the "Isparacher war." Soon after this war Isparacher was elected as chief justice of the supreme court of the creek nation, which position he held until he was elected chief of the nation in 1895 over the combined opposition of the Porter and Perryman parties. He was strictly honest, and unearthed a number of frauds on the Creek nation after he was elected chief--among them is the \$30,000 Creek warrant fraud, the discovery of which has led the secretary of the interior to refuse to disburse the \$333,000 which was appropriated by congress with which to pay off the indebtedness of the Creek nation.

Isparacher was 6 feet tall, weighing about 200 pounds. He knew nothing of the English language. His home was situated twenty miles west of Okmulgee, between two mountains, three-quarters of a mile off the main road. He had no children and lived with

his wife, a full-blood Creek Indian, in a little box house 14x16 feet, with a small shed room in the back and a porch in the front. His humble dwelling was enclosed with a rail fence and the yard is adorned with a few cedar trees. There in his humble way he entertained his friends in true Indian style and with true Indian hospitality. Not far from the house is the barn and orchard, and a small farm, all of which is presided over by his faithful wife.

When Isparacher went to Washington some years ago he there met the lady who did his laundry work. She was a white woman. The old Indian fell in love with her, and through an interpreter wooed and won the northern woman and brought her to his home near Okmulgee. She did not long remain with her dusky lord, but returned to the gay life of the national capital.

His wealth consisted principally of horses and cattle, which run on the commons near his premises.