



LONE WOLF

STACY RIGGS

SAND CREEK MASSACRE SURVIVOR

DOG SOLDIER

U.S INDIAN SCOUT, FORT ELLIOT, TX.

NEWSPAPER WRITER

LAY READER, WHIRLWIND MISSION

CHEYENNE GRANDPA

"It was a great thrill to spend the day (November 18, 1936) in conversation with Stacy Riggs, 79 years of age, the grandson of Black Kettle...His mind is keen, his form lithe and erect, and he relates his experiences with no indication that he is conscious of his daring acts and the courage of his conduct."

Thomas B. Williams, "Soul of the Red Man"



Stacy Riggs photographed circa 1937. Riggs lived through the last years of the free-roaming Plains Indian. He made a successful transition to a Christian life in 20th Century western Oklahoma.

"He [Riggs] has no recollection of the Battle of Sand Creek, but describes it as told to him by his mother, who fled with him after Col. Chivington made the brutal attack on the Cheyennes..."

Thomas B. Williams

Riggs was an avid writer who supplied "old time" Indian News to several Oklahoma papers. His featured article "From the Warpath to the White Man's Road" was published at Geary, Oklahoma in 1939.



In 1879, less than a generation after the Sand Creek Massacre, Carlisle Indian School opened in Pennsylvania. "Kill the Indian, Save the Man," was a motto attached to the school's mission. Among the first Cheyenne to arrive at the school was Stacy Riggs. In these Carlisle photos, Riggs stands upper left with hat in hand; and upper right, back row, 3rd from left.

The background of Riggs, who referred to himself as a grandson of Chief Black Kettle, remains an enigma. His father is listed as White Buffalo or White Crane and his mother as Buffalo Neck Woman (Mut-twy-ah). Riggs appears to be a lineal descendant of Bear Feathers and Standing Out - both killed at Sand Creek. Riggs firstborn, a son named Gentle Horse, was named after old Gentle Horse, Riggs grandfather and brother of Chief Black Kettle.

At Riggs passing in 1942, he was survived by sons Edward N., Howard, Francis K., and Benjamin Riggs, and daughters Margaret Curtis, Jeanette Howling Crane, and Minnie Bearbow.

"He [Riggs] was an orphan but never let it stand in his way...He was determined, he was a survivor...a missionary adopted him. That's how he got the name Stacy Riggs... He would sit us down and tell us stories...I loved to listen to him. Everything sounded like it happened yesterday. Even the bad parts, he wasn't bitter about...he was my hero."

Granddaughter of Stacy Riggs