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THE ENDING OF THE REES AND SIOUX WARS

The following bit of Indian history was written by Henry Bowker as a study in English:

It was the custom for the warriors of the Rees and Sioux tribes to steal the fastest and best horses they owned. Early one spring the chief of the Rees and his only son started to make a raid and steal the fastest horses the Sioux had.

The Rees made their way down the Missouri River on a raft they made, and traveled only at night for fear of getting caught by some Sioux warrior, who patrolled the Missouri. They journeyed until one night they came upon the Sioux encampment. They were camped in a big circle and had a bonfire burning. The Sioux had no thought of any one coming, but they were always on guard and very alert as to the welfare of their fast horses. Nevertheless, the great chief of the Rees took a chance that night and went into the encircling camps.

This Rees Chief was taking a big chance as the Sioux warriors always had their fast horses tied near their tents. The Rees chief left his son on guard and if in danger to fire three shots before making his escape, if possible. The chief left him and was gone only a few minutes before he came back and warned his son that they were in great danger, but he thought they could get away with one or two horses. He had spotted the two fastest horses they had in camp and was going to get away with the horse that had a great mane.

He entered the circle again. This time he was gone for some time as he had to crawl a long way before reaching the point where the horse stood. On arriving there he soon managed to get him loose and delivered him to his son. He told his son to be ready to go at any time and that he was going after another horse. "In case I'm caught and shots are fired you ride for home, and travel only at night." The Rees chief entered the camp again. The horse he wished to get was too near the owner's wigwam. Just as he was about to untie the horse a Sioux warrior came out of the tent and saw him. The Rees chief became unduly excited and shot at the Sioux and soon the whole camp was in arms. The Rees chief tried to make his getaway, but was wounded and fought bravely until death.

The bonfires were kindled and all the Sioux gathered around and recognized the warrior as the great Chief of the Rees.

In the meantime the son of the chief started for home. He rode all night, rested the next day and reached home as the sun rose after the second night of riding. He told his story. This of course saddened the Rees. The boy was sad and lonely, and longed to return and bring his father's body back to the land of its birth.

There was great mourning among the Rees for their chief. They finally decided to make peace with the Sioux. The wife of the Rees chief and his son were the leading members of the tribe who wished to make peace. They persuaded all the Rees to want peace. At a general council the peace problem aroused much interest and they all agreed to live in harmony. The respect of property was what they wanted.

The Rees set out on the peace mission to the Sioux. They had many fine presents for them. The Sioux chief called a council of his people to meet the Rees delegation. They made a treaty of friendship that was never broken.

The son returned the horse to its owner, but was given two horses better than the one that was returned. A great feast was prepared, and all enjoyed it. They then went to the grave of the Rees chief and paid tribute to their dead warrior. After this tribute was paid, they departed for their homes and forever lived in peace.

According to reports there is a great "gold rush" on in Nevada. This is "news," but not the whole "story." An Indian woman figures in it—she could "keep a secret." As the story goes "Dutch Creek" Johnny found a rich gold mine on the western edge of the Nevada desert region. Nothing could trick him into telling of its location. On his death bed he told his wife where it might be found, on her promise to keep it a tribal secret during her life. The promise she kept faithfully, but just before she died she revealed the location of the gold deposit to her son, a tribal Chief. He established his claim to it and the news got out, and now the rush is on.