

Preface

Their superstitious minds and fear of the paranormal was a natural born curse to our Native American Indians. It was the main reason why most of them would not, or did not, search for wealth buried long ago by their ancestors. Even when they knew where it was hidden beyond a doubt, the Indians refused to go after it. They were also afraid to tell anyone else for fear these folks (others?) would be harmed or killed by some terrible beast or monster from the dark side, or an angry ghost guarding the treasure.

Pete Cole interviewed many of the early day Indians and Negros that settled in the Indian Territory for Oklahoma's historian's Grant Foreman's Indian-Pioneer History project for the Oklahoma Historical Society. His writings were very expressive of Indian opinions and experiences, especially where it concerned buried money, ghosts, and the supernatural.

There are hundreds of lonely, out-of-the-way places throughout the Old West where one would expect to encounter a paranormal happening or ghostly apparition – abandoned forts, decaying cabins and homesteads, dangerous river crossings, waterholes, crossroads,

and meeting places where an unexpected death occurred. If a person really wishes to see a ghost, they usually do sooner or later. If you are an Indian, it probably is sooner.

The Indians and the black freedmen, former Indian slaves, believed strongly in ghosts, witches, and goblins. They enjoyed telling good ghost stories about supernatural beings and paranormal happenings. This included strange unexplained phenomena. It was easy for them to let their superstitious minds and lively imaginations run wild.

Personally, I have never experienced an encounter with a supernatural being, angry or friendly. Maybe under certain circumstances and if I tried hard enough and was in the right surroundings, I could dream up one. There is no solid evidence that ghosts are for real as far as I know. But like the Loch Ness Monster, Big Foot, flying saucers, and strange sightings in the midnight sky, who's to say without a doubt they don't exist?

I consider myself to be of sound mind and brave of heart. But if I came face to face with any of the above apparitions, my feet would probably not agree with my head. They would, no doubt, keep running until they cleared at least two counties, and counting.

Happy reading,
Bob Turpin
Antlers, Oklahoma