

Richard F. Blinn Indian story

This item tells of the fate of Richard Blinn's wife Clara and their son Willie in 1868. After spending a short time living in Ottawa, Kansas, the Blinn's left for the west coast with a large wagon train. According to the article, which was first printed in the "Wood County Sentinel" in Bowling Green, Ohio, Blinn survived the October 9, 1868 Indian attack, and later filed a claim with the U.S. Government that resulted in a \$1,200 payment. Also according to the story, Mrs. Blinn and Willie died at the hands of their Cheyenne captors as U.S. Army forces led by George A. Custer attacked the Cheyenne's encampment.

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Misc.

Blinn

RICHARD F. BLINN INDIAN STORY - 1

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Wood county Sentinel Bowling Green, Thursday, December 22, 1892, on the front page "An Old Story" revived by an recent occurrence - the murder of Mrs. Dick Blinn and child by the Indians. How long it takes to get an account thru Red tape of Uncle Sam.

"Say, I just received a check for \$1200. from Uncle Sam in payment of a claim filed by Dick Blinn of Perrysburg, Ohio on account of the murder of his wife and child by Indians in 1868 said attorney Frank A. Baldwin to a Sentinel man a few days ago. Since that brought up recollections of a horrible remembered story we heard years ago. RICHARD F. BLINN was a Perrysburg boy married to CLARA HARRINGTON a pretty and accomplished daughter of W.T. HARRINGTON at that time a hotel keeper at Perrysburg. Shortly after the marriage Mr. Harrington removed to Ottawa, Kansas. Blinn and wife went along. After being there a year perhaps Dick Blinn and wife and two year old son (Willie) left with a strong wagon train to cross the plains to the Pacific coast. The Indians were acting very badly at this time and every weak party was sure to be attacked and murdered, scalped and their property taken by the savages. The party Blinn was with was a strong one however and felt comparatively secure. Particularly was this true after one day when a large party of Sioux appeared with the evident intention of an attack but after firing a few shots at long range disappeared in apparent rage and disappointment. The train went on rejoicing in the security their strength in number afforded. A few days after they appeared as they now had crossed Sand Creek in Western Kansas when with wild yells a large party of Cheyenes came sweeping down upon them, stampeded their stock, killed some of the men and the others ran away leaving wives and children in the hands of the Indians. In Mrs. Fanny Kelly's book "My Captivity Among the Sioux" (Mrs. Kelly was the wife of Josiah S. Kelley brother of R.W. Kelley of West Milgrove) says Santana who led the band sprang in first followed by his braves whom he ordered to let the cowardly pale faces run away without pursuit. She also says Dick Blinn was shot and died standing by the wagon containing his wife and child. That sounds all right and very heroic but as Dick returned to civilization and filed a claim with the Government for the loss of his wife and child he must have been one of those to whom the cruel chief referred so contemptuously when he said to let them go. This occurred Oct 9, 1868 and Mrs. Blinn and child were carried away with others by the Indians and were subjected to the most execratable torture for some months. Mrs. Blinn managed to send a letter to the commandant at the nearest fort by an Indian girl who hated the Chief Samatan because he had killed her "big Injun". In this letter Mrs. Blinn told of their deplorable situation and begged assistance. A few days later the gallant Custer with a company of regular cavalry swept the village like a storm. When first discharge of carbines was heard Mrs. Blinn sprang from her lodge and grasping her boy cried joyfully "Saved at last my boy" but scarcely were the words uttered ere the tomahawk of the cruel Santana who evidently suspected her of having incited the attack was buried in her brain; her little boy was taken by the feet, his brains dashed out and his little body thrown upon that of his dying mother, whose arms closed about it in a last embrace and thus the soldier found them an hour or so later. They were tenderly taken up and borne to Fort Cobb where they were buried just outside the walls. Richard Blinn came back to Ohio and filed a claim with the government for the loss of his wife and child in a Indian depredation. This was upward of 23 years ago. He soon after went to the only

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-2- Blinn Indian story-

known place where Uncle Sam's currency is not accepted, will buy no favors from officials- the grave. Matters then drifted along some years when some relative of Mr Blinn's happened to remember the claim filed years ago and that there might be "something in it" if properly managed. A consultation was held and Frank C. Baldwin (married to a ~~Scott~~) another relative somehow we don't know how and guess he don't was appointed to administer upon the estate of Richard Blinn. The estate in total consisting of the claim against the government. Frank accepted the burden and went into the work of looking up the claim with his accustomed energy. Found the old claim pigeon held in one of the Departments in Washington got it out, dusted and polished it and set it to grinding and finally after six or seven weeks more of delay was rewarded last week by receiving a check from Uncle Sam as stated. There after twenty three years a claim with sure personal proofs of correctness as General Custer and Sheridan is paid. The interested parties are all long since dead, the men who furnished the proofs are dead, the Indians themselves who committed the hellish murders have doubtless since rotted their stomachs out in a villainous government tangle feet, glad to escape from a world that furnished the poor noble red no better whisky nobody left but the administrator Mr Baldwin whose skill with this and a few distant relatives of the original Mr Blinn and we really believe they are all considerably surprised at having lived to see the collection made.

✓ Clara
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clerk of
Jill
Foots