

WILSON, Burney
The Sacramento Bee
3-27-1945

Military Funeral Is Held In Manzanar For Chico Indian Native

MANZANAR (Inyo Co.), March 27.—Funeral services for Burney Wilson, Indian, were held in the Manzanar Relocation Center under the auspices of Mt. Whitney Post No. 265, American Legion. A Methodist minister, Rev. Robert Kersey of Lone Pine, recited the rites. Elmer Uchida, Japanese layman, offered the prayer followed by a eulogy by Ralph P. Merritt, project director.

Wilson, 49, died Wednesday in the Manzanar hospital following a sudden illness. He was born in July, 1895, on the reservation near Chico, Butte County. He had been at Manzanar since July, 1942, as procurement officer. Prior to that time he had served in the Indian service for 27 years in Tacoma, Wash., Navajo Agency, Arizona, and Klamath, Ore.

Surviving are his wife, Cora Wilson of Manzanar; his daughter, Ruth Wilson of Seattle, Wash., his mother, Amanda Wilson of Chico, a brother, Ed of Chico, and a sister in Oakland.

The deceased was a first lieutenant in the infantry in World War I and was accorded full military funeral honors.

WILLIAMS (JOHNSON), Mrs. Kitty
Chico Record
1-1-1946

Yankee Hill Indian Woman Reaches Age Of 114 At Death

Mrs. Kitty Williams Johnson, an Indian woman of Yankee Hill, who had lived to witness 113 New Year's Days, died yesterday afternoon at her home.

Deputy Coroner William Gaylord said Mrs. Johnson was 114 years of age at the time of her death. Little is known of her early life, but she was 17 years old when gold was discovered in California.

Her only survivor is a sister, Miss Dixie Williams of Concow.

WILLIAMS, Kittie
Oroville Mercury Register
1-2-1946

Oldest Woman Dies; Yankee Hill Indian Passes; Age 115, Guess

MR. KITTIE WILLIAMS, rated at 115 years, is dead.

Probably one of the oldest people in the west, Kittie a full-blooded Concow Indian, died Monday afternoon at Yankee Hill.

No one knows exactly how old Kittie is. She might be 120 or she might be 110. Her age was arrived at by questioning other aged Indians, who agreed that Kittie was about the age of their deceased parents, whose ages were known.

Charles T. Crawford of the county welfare department, knew Kittie well and called on her many times over a period of years. He said that she had a fine sense of humor and a good memory, even when he saw her within the last year.

She spent much of her time

making flour from acorns. She preferred acorn bread. Her spare time was spent weaving baskets.

She never knew her own age and always would reply "Don't know," when asked.

Kittie was married twice, both times to men named Williams. Her first husband Charles, she married in 1859. Her second, Billy, she married in 1920. She had no children. Most of her life was spent around Isaiah and Pulga, with a few years at Yankee Hill.

Kittie is survived by a brother, Dixon (Dixey) Williams, of Concow. The welfare department figures Dixon's age at 80, going by a poll tax receipt in 1938, when Dixon gave his age. Whether he was guessing is not known.

Hamilton and Riley's announced that the funeral will be at the graveside at Yankee Hill cemetery at 10 a. m. Friday.

WILLIAMS, Kittie
The Chico Enterprise

1-3-1946

Yankee Hill Lady Dies at Age of About 115 Years

YANKEE HILL, Jan. 3 — Mrs. Kattie Williams, rated at 115 years, is dead.

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WILLIAMS (JOHNSON), Mrs. Kitty
Sacramento Bee
1-3-1946

Butte Indian, Believed To Have Been 114, Is Deceased

OROVILLE (Butte Co.), Jan. 3. Funeral services will be held tomorrow at 10 A. M. for Mrs. Kitty Johnson Williams, who as a girl is said to have been a witness of many of the scenes of California's Gold Rush.

Mrs. Williams claimed to be 114 years old at the time of her death in Yankee Hill Monday and what records there are set her age at between 101 and 120. She was a full blooded Concow Indian and had lived in Butte County all her life.

Charles Crawford, who took care of her pension money payments, said that until four years ago she lived alone in a cabin above Pulga on the Feather River. She moved

to Yankee Hill after agreeing that cooking and housework at her age was a little difficult.

Mrs. Williams was married twice, both times to men named Williams. Charles Williams, whom she married in 1869, died near the turn of the century and she later married Billy Williams, also a full blooded Concow, in 1920. She had no children, and is survived only by a brother, Dixon Johnson, known here as Dixie, a trapper and guide.

Concow rites at the Indian burial grounds near Isaiah, in Butte County, had been suggested, but close friends decided on graveside services at the Yankee Hill Cemetery under the direction of Hamilton & Riley's.

Note: In 1920, Kitty was the servant for the King family who owned Pulga.

WILSON, Mrs. Amanda

The Sacramento Bee

2-4-1946

Chico Mechoopda, Protege Of Mrs. Bidwell, Is Buried

CHICO (Butte Co.), Feb. 4.—Mrs. Amanda Wilson, whose age probably was near 100 years and who was the last surviving person who spoke the Mechoopda language, was buried today in the cemetery in the Indian rancheria.

Mrs. Wilson was a grown woman, wife of Chief Lafonso, tribal head of the Mechoopdas, when Mrs. Annie E. K. Bidwell arrived at Rancho Chico in 1868. Even before Amanda forsook her pagan gods for Christianity under the tutelage of Mrs. Bidwell she became the personal maid of her benefactress and remained in that capacity until Mrs. Bidwell's death in 1918. She did not know her true age but in 1944 estimated it probably was 100 years.

Lived In Wickiups

When General John Bidwell took possession of his Mexican grant in 1847, Chief Lafonso and his 250 tribesmen lived in mud and sapling wickiups. They moved to a mile from where Bidwell erected the present mansion for his bride in 1868 but still lived in primitive huts.

Mrs. Bidwell made the Mechoopdas her personal responsibility and the rancheria her personal reservation. In time she was responsible for educating the tribe, moving them to houses and weaning them from pagan ways. Chief Lafonso died in 1906 and his imperial crown of feathers passed to his widow.

Married Santa Wilson

Amanda later married Santa Wilson, Bidwell's coachman, who became an ordained elder in the Presbyterian Church in the Indian village.

He died nine years ago.



Mrs. Amanda Wilson

Mrs. Wilson long was a leader in the affairs pertaining to the advancement of her people. She was well known in Chico as a singer of Indian songs.

Rev. Harris Pillsbury, pastor of the Bidwell Memorial Presbyterian Church, officiated at the funeral services.

Surviving are her sons, Elmer Lafonso, Sherman Wilson and Edward Wilson, all of Chico, and a daughter, Mrs. Eva Pierce of Oakland.

WILSON, Douglas
The Sacramento Bee
3-17-1948

Suicide Of Veteran Is Called Delayed World War Casualty

MODESTO, March 17.—(INS)—A 29 year old American Indian, a navy veteran, was put down today as a "delayed casualty" of World War II.

Two days ago Douglas Wilson left his home in San Diego to visit his father in Chico, Butte County.

Stanislaus County deputy sheriffs took him into custody and placed him in the security ward of the county hospital after residents told authorities Wilson had sought refuge from "people who were trying to kill him."

Wilson's body was found yesterday hanging from a cell door. He had fashioned a noose from a bed sheet.

Wilson, recently a professional boxer, leaves a wife, Belva, and sons, Sherman and Douglas, all of San Diego, and his father, Douglas Wilson, Route 4, Box 24, Chico.

6-9-1949

Famous Indian Known to Many Dies at Age 80

*Full-Blooded Concow,
He Lived His Life in
Woods and Mountains*

DIXIE JOHNSON, famed tracker who could read the footprints in the woods as others can read print, died at midnight last night at the home of Thomas Melvin in Paradise. He was 80.

Mr. Johnson, a full-blooded Concow Indian, has lived his entire life in the mountains surrounding Oroville and Paradise, and has long been known as the nemesis of hold-up men who start out on foot through the forests.

During the past 30 years Mr. Johnson was not often in the lime-



DIXIE JOHNSON

light as he was before then, when he helped solve some of the county's most puzzling crimes.

He has been living at Intake near Las Plumas where he worked a mining claim. His last act was one of helpfulness to a friend. Last Monday Dixie traveled to Paradise to help Melvin, a friend of long standing, to do assessment work on Melvin's mining claim in rugged Big Butte creek canyon.

Apparently his tired heart gave out last night.

It was in 1915 that Mr. Johnson performed a feat that made him famous when he tracked down two payroll robbers near Stirling City after more than 500 men had waded throughout the woods in the search.

TWO MEN robbed DM's camp No. 1, of \$2800 in August of that year. Officers and volunteers spent three fruitless days in the area searching for the robbers before Mr. Johnson was called.

For eight days Mr. Johnson and Bill Peachy, a one-time constable, searched the woods until one day Dixie spotted tracks leading from a highway to a clump of bushes. It was as though a man had stepped off the road seeking cover of the brush. It was this track that led Mr. Johnson and Peachy to the spot where the robbers had fled following the robbery. Part way up a long hill, the robbers had resorted to a log chute but Mr. Johnson found where they had stepped on a log, followed the trail to the robbers' hangout.

Odd sequel to the story was that the robbers, when they realized they were being tracked, hid their firearms and the money, but later, after their arrest, it was discovered that a transient had found the can in which the money had been deposited and had made away with it.

DIXIE IS survived by his wife Maude Johnson who lives in Pulga; a son Elmer Johnson of Pulga and a grandson Edward Johnson of Brush Creek.

Funeral services are pending at the Paradise Chapel of the Pines.

Daylight Saving Initiative Offered

SACRAMENTO —(U.P.)— A move to give Californians a chance to vote on compulsory summer daylight savings time was begun today by the President of the State Junior Chamber of Commerce.

George H. Waite, Sacramento, submitted an initiative measure proposing a state daylight saving law to the attorney general's office here for a legal title.

The State Junior Chamber of Commerce authorized Waite to sponsor the measure on behalf of the organization at its convention in Long Beach last month.

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JOHNSON, Dixie
The Chico Enterprise Record
6-11-1949

Services Scheduled For Indian Tracker

PARADISE. — Graveside services for Dixie Johnson, famed Indian tracker of Butte County who died Thursday in Paradise, will be held at 2 p. m. Monday in the Yankee Hill Cemetery.

Johnson, 80 at the time of his death, had been noted for his abil-

ity to follow tracks through rough country. He had aided the sheriff's office in finding criminals at various times during his career.

Survivors include his wife Maud of Merrimac, a son Elmer of Pulga, a grandson Edward of Merrimac, and two great-grandchildren.

The Paradise Chapel of the Pines is in charge of the funeral services, at which Rev. W. S. Woodhall will officiate.

JOHNSON, Dixie
Paradise Post
6-16-1949



FAMOUS INDIAN TRACKER DIES

Dixie Johnson, Indian tracker who used to pursue outlaws through the woods and hills, last week followed the invisible footprints of death into a darker valley. He died here, apparently of a heart condition, at the home of a friend, Thomas Melvin, late Wednesday night. He was over 80 years old.

Johnson was born and went to school in Yankee Hill, and spent his entire life in this region. He was a full-blooded Concow Indian, and had the Indian's skill and knowledge of the woods. In past years he was employed by the sheriff's office to track down holdup men who disappeared into the hills.

His most famous exploit was the tracking down of two payroll robbers near Stirling City in 1915. More than 500 officers and volunteers had searched the forests for two days before Johnson was called upon. He and a constable searched for eight days until Dixie spotted tracks leading from a highway to a clump of bushes. They followed this track. Part way up a long hill, the robbers had resorted to a log chute, but Johnson found where they had stepped on a log and followed the trail to the robbers' hangout.

A few years ago, Dixie was employed during the fishing and hunting seasons by the North Fork of the American River Association, a Sacramento and San Francisco sportsman's group which has land holdings of 10,000 acres at Soda Springs, in the Sierras near Truckee. Dixie's job was to guide fishing and hunting parties of the members. Through this employment he became acquainted with and was a frequent visitor in the homes of many of the state's most prominent sportsmen in Sacramento and San Francisco.

In recent years Dixie has been living at Intake, near Las Plumas, where he worked a mining claim. He drove over to Paradise from there the Monday preceding his death in order to do assessment work on Melvin's mining claim in Big Butte Creek canyon. He had had a heart ailment for some time, and became ill shortly after he arrived here.

He is survived by his wife, Maude Johnson, who lives at Mayaro, near Pulga; a son, Elmer Johnson of Pulga; a grandson, Edward Johnson of Berry Creek, and two great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at 2 o'clock Monday, with Rev. W. S. Woodhull of Paradise conducting graveside services at the Yankee Hill Cemetery.

JOHNSON, Martha Helen (Ellen)

The Sacramento Bee

10-21-1949

Indian Massacre Survivor's Kin Is Dead In Chico

CHICO (Butte Co.), Oct. 21.—Mrs. Martha Helen Johnson, 80, last member of the Lewis family which met tragedy at the hands of the Mill Creek Indians in the early history of Butte County, died in her Sacramento Avenue home here yesterday.

Mrs. Johnson was born in the Clear Creek district between Chico and Oroville, the daughter of Sam and Mary Lewis. Her mother, as young Mary Mitchell, was the only survivor of a wagon train coming from the East whose members were massacred in Utah.

Mrs. Johnson's sister and two brothers were captured by the Mill Creeks. The searching family and friends later found the sister, then 9, alive, but the boys had been killed.

Mrs. Johnson's survivors include her husband, Fred Johnson of Chico, and children, Mrs. Josephine Rouke and Charles McKiernan of Chico and George McKiernan of Corning.

Funeral services will be Monday at 10 AM in the Brusie Funeral Home. Burial will be in the Clear Creek Cemetery.