

Warrior of the Sun
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Copy write 06/23/2012

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Introduction

A family moving west in the early 1800s. A young Irish boy strays away from camp in early morning and is left behind.

Captured by the Indians the old Chief because of a vision decides to take the boy as his son.

When the Indians are defeated by the army he escapes and decides to try to find his real family.

Set in the early 1800s, a good story.

CHAPTER ONE
MOVING WEST

David o Shannon was born in the spring of 1801. He was the seventh of ten children, eight boys and two girls.

He is now eight years old, weighs sixty pounds and stands about three feet five inches tall. His hair is very bright red and hangs down to his shoulders. His face is full of freckles and his eyes are bright green.

His father and mother had come to America from Ireland in 1786.

His mother had given birth to twin boys, Harry and Larry O Shannon on the ship on the way over.

They were farmers by trade and settled in Indiana. They had eight more children, twin girls, Mary and Maria, then six more boys.

Danni , Paul, James, Timothy, David and Link.

After 21 years in Indiana they decided to move west. A lot of their neighbors had already made the decision and left.

So, in early March they sold their farm and Headed for the Oklahoma territory.

It was now late June 1789.

They were about half way across Kansas and had stopped for the day.

His mother was cooking supper and his dad was mending a wheel that had broken a spoke.

His Two oldest brothers had gone ahead looking for water and fresh meat.

Some of the other children were playing about the camp.

David had climbed to the top of a large hill to get a view of the countryside.

The view was breathtaking to him.

He had never seen anything like it.

As far as the eye could see was rolling hills of green grass, with a clump of trees here and there.

David very seldom wore a shirt and his pink body had turned a dark tan with just a touch of red.

There was a good breeze blowing and it caught his long red hair and pulled it straight out away from his shoulders.

He had been on that hill for hours. He had not even noticed his hunger until his mother rang the dinner bell.

Although it was against his father's wishes, she had brought it with her all the way from Indiana.

David got back to camp just as his two oldest brothers were riding in.

They told their father that there was a stream about eight miles west and it would be easy to cross.

After a good supper they sat around the campfire and sang some songs while their father played the fiddle.

Then it came time to go to bed for the night. They would get an early start in the morning.

David, his two sisters and five of his brothers slept in the wagon.

His Father, Mother and two oldest brothers would sleep around the campfire.

It was about three o'clock in the morning when David awoke.

He rose up and looked out of the wagon.

The campfire had burned down to a flicker. He saw a full moon that looked like it was resting on top of the hill that he had climbed the evening before.

There were a billion stars that sparkled in the darkness of the sky.

He slowly made his way out of the wagon and out of the camp.

He climbed the hill that he had climbed the day before.

As he reached the top he heard a coyote howl from another hill.

As he looked his way, he could see him with his head up and howling at the moon.

There was a large bolder on top of the hill.

David climbed on top of the rock and lay down on his back.

The view was magnificent.

He wished that they could stop and make their home right here on this hill.

Every so often he would see a shooting star streak across the sky.

**He would close his eyes and make a wish.
Soon he was fast asleep laying there on that rock on top
of the hill.**

CHAPTER TWO LEFT BEHIND

As David's Father awoke and sat up he looked at his watch, holding it to the flickering light of the campfire. Four an M he thought, "We better get moving. "

He woke his wife and two sons.

They got up and hitched the horses to the wagon and the two boys saddled their horses.

The all got on and headed west.

No use to wake the children now, they would wait to eat breakfast at the stream that the boys had told him about.

When David awoke he could feel the heat of the warm morning sun as it slowly peeked its head over a hill far to the east.

David sat up stretched and looked around.

It was full daylight.

He looks down the hill at the campsite. Shock went through him as he saw that there was no wagon or horses, they had left him behind.

He jumped down off of the rock and ran down the hill to where the camp was.

He could see the tracks of the wagon headed west, but it was nowhere in sight.

He begins to follow the tracks.

He thought "When they discover me missing, my brothers will come back looking for me. "

David was starting to get very hungry, but he decided not to think about that much.

After all he had bigger troubles than that.

He was thinking about the wapping that he was going to get when he did get back to camp.

Little did he know that his troubles were just starting.

Not far to his right was a clump of trees.

Watching him from the trees was a small band of Indians.

Gray wolf was the Chief of the Chickasaw tribe in this part of the country.

He had watched the white man move across his homeland.

By the hundreds they came, they built forts and towns and killed or ran off all the game that his people used for food and clothing.

They even killed some of his people, and they needed no reason to do it.

When he saw the boy walking along, he remembered a vision that he had seen as a young man.

A young war chief that rode a golden horse and his hair was of fire that streamed behind him as he rode.

But his long bonnet of feathers did not burn.

He would lead his people in battle and drive the white men out of the land of the Chickasaw.

Gray wolf had had two sons but they had both been killed in battle with the white man. At that moment he decided he would take this boy to be his son. He instructed his braves to capture the boy, but not to hurt him.

David saw the Indians come out of the trees and ride toward him. He started to run but they were soon all around him yelling and laughing.

They let him run until he was exhausted and fell to the ground.

One of them jumped from his horse and grabbed David and picked him up.

He begins to try to fight the Indian but he was just too strong. The Indian took David over and put him on behind the Chief. Then they rode away with David hanging on to the old chief.

It took them three days to get to the Indian village.

There must have been at least a hundred tee pees next to a small lake.

David had tried to escape several times but they always found him and brought him back.

The old Chief had learned some of the white mans language.

He had been talking to David and asking him about his family.

He told David that he had taken him to be his son.

David told him that he did not want to be his son and he would escape and go back to his real family.

Then the Chief said if he resisted he would send his braves to kill all of David's family.

David decided that he had no choice and agreed to stay and be a son to the old chief.

CHAPTER FIVE

A NEW LIFE

missing, his father sent the two older boys back to look for him.

Returning to the place where they had camped before, they searched the surrounding area for him but to no avail. David was nowhere to be found.

They started to return to where their family was camped to tell them the bad news. On the way they came across some unshod horse tracks that crossed their trail.

The tracks looked to be about an hour old.

They decided to follow them to see where they went.

After several hours they came to a stream.

It was very shallow and had a solid rock bottom.

The tracks went into the stream but did not come out on the other side.

They decided to split up and see if they could find their trail coming out of the stream.

They agreed to meet back there in two hours.

After two hours they both returned to the place where they started. Neither had found any tracks.

The boys returned to their father to tell him what they had discovered. Their father told them that he couldn't risk the lives of his whole family for one child. He loved all of his children, but life out there was hard and he use

common since also. He could not risk the lives of his whole family for David. So they said a prayer for him and ask God to protect him and send him back to them. Then they continued on their journey to find their new home.

Chapter Three Becoming a Man

The old chief taught David all the ways of the Chickasaw.

He was a gentle but very firm man.

David discovered that the Chickasaw was not anything like he had heard about them.

They were a kind and gentle people, but fierce fighters and their inamies feared them.

The old Chief told David “I give you the name, Son of Wolf. Some day you will be given a name for a warrior. But until then I give you this one. “

The rest of the tribe honored their chief, so the excepted David as one of them.

As time passed and summer turned to winter and back again several times over.

David grew into a fine young man and was known to all as, Son of wolf.

He was now eighteen years old and it was time to prove himself to be a man.

His task was to acquire a horse of his own.

He had learned to ride on one of Gray wolf's horses.

Now He had to leave the village on foot and could not return without a horse.

There were three other young men in the village that had to take the test also.

They all left the village in different directions so as not to run into each other.

The first day he had seen no signed of any horses, not even a track.

The second day it was late afternoon when he saw the tracks of unshod horses. He followed them until it got to dark to see.

He then found shelter for the night as he was taught to do by Gray Wolf.

The next morning he found him something to eat and started following the tracks again.

He had come to a clump of trees and was making his way through them when he heard the sound of horses.

Very carefully he made his way through the trees. On the other side in a clearing he saw a heard of about twenty horses.

He watched them for a while, wondering how he was going to catch him one.

He had brought a blanket, rope and bridle but to rope one in the open would just get him dragged.

He was trying to decide which one he would try for when high on a hill he heard a whinny.

He looked up to see the most beautiful horse he had ever seen.

It look like it was solid gold and its mane hanged down to the bottom of his neck.

He was big and muscular.

He thought to himself, I have got to have that horse.

He stayed in the trees and watched them for several hours.

Then finely the big horse came down the hill to his heard.

He begins to whinny and sniff them and move around among them.

David thought, he's about to mate, this could be my one chance.

The big horse found the mare that he wanted, moved around behind her and mounted her.

His Back was to David and only about twenty yards away and under the shade of a big tree.

David moved in very slowly until he was next to the tree that they were under.

David tied one end of the rope to a limb on the tree and stepped out from behind it.

The big horse coughed his sent and threw his head back.

David threw his rope, his aim was true it went right around the neck of the big horse.

He had him.

The big horse turned and started for David but David ran into the trees out of his reach.

The rest of the horses took off running.

The big horse tried to get away but could not break the rope.

In trying to get to David the big horse had tangled himself around another tree and couldn't move.

David begins to whistle an Irish tune that his father had taught him when he was very young.

It seemed to calm the big horse down a bit.

The big horse couldn't reach the ground so he had nothing to eat.

David waited for two days and didn't give him anything to eat or drink. After two days he pulled some grass and gave it to the big horse.

As he fed him he would whistle the tune.

After a week he finely got the big horse to let him put the bridle on him.

He would pet the big horse and talk to him and whistle the same tune to him. Two more weeks passed and David decided it was time to ride. He untangled the rope from the tree leaving it tied to the other tree.

As he approached the big horse he whistled the tune. He petted the horse for awhile then put the bridle over his head and jumped on the big horse.

About ten seconds he hit the ground.

He looked up and the big horse was just looking at him.

David got up and went over and petted him a little.

Grabbed his mane and jumped on.

Maybe twenty seconds this time and he hit the ground.

Five more times that day then he stopped for the night.

After three days of the same he could since the big horse giving in.

Each time he would stay on a little longer until finely he mounted the big horse and he just stood there.

David moved him around a little then took the rope from around his neck and rode away, he had made a friend and said, I will call you Thunder.

Chapter four Fulfill a Vision

Gray Wolf stood at the edge of the village looking out over the plane as he had done for the past ten days. His wife came to him and put her hand on his shoulder and said, "Why do you look for him every day? He has returned to his people and will not be back." Gray Wolf said "He will be back, you will see. Just then far off in the distance he saw something moving.

It got closer and closer until he could see what it was. "You see wife, just like in my vision."

Thunder was moving at a gallop and David's long red hair was held straight back by the wind.

"You see wife, his hair is on fire and he rides a golden horse, just like my vision."

"Yes my husband, I see him."

When David rode into the village there were many there to greet him.

Gray Wolf was standing in front of his tee pee.

"You have done well my son."

David got off of Thunder and stood before Gray Wolf and said.

I am my father's son, I am Son Of Wolf."

"You are my son but from this day on you shall be called White Eagle, Warrior of the Sun."

That night the tribe was celebrating that all four of the boys had come back with horses and were now considered to be men.

White Eagle was sitting next to his father Wolf. As they sat they talked. Wolf told him of his vision and that White Eagle would be that war chief and run the white man out of their mist.

White Eagle said, "Father I would talk with you in private."

They both got up and went into Wolf's Tee Pee and sat down.

Wolf Said, "What would my son say to me?"

White Eagle said, "I am White Eagle, Son of Wolf. But I have the white mans blood flowing through my body. So My Father how can I make war on the white man who has done nothing to me?"

"My Son I have razed you to be Chickasaw. You will find a way to decide who you will fight.

I have no words for you, you must search your heart and see if you are a Chickasaw or a white man."

"My Father my wish is to do your bidding and to please you. But how can I be this war chief that you speak of when I have no hatred for the white man in me?"

"I have no answer for you my Son but if it were not true why would I have the vision?"

Ten years passed and there had been a few fights with the soldiers and some raids on a couple of wagon trains. One day Gray Wolf called White Eagle to his tee pee and said to him.

“ My son it is time for you to lead your people, I am getting to old to lead them and they need a younger chief.

At that time a brave came to the Tee Pee and said “ My Chief, the soldiers come.”

Chief Gray Wolf and White Eagle came out of the tee pee.

There was about a dozen soldiers riding into the village. As they rode up one of them razed his hand as a greeting to the chief.

He said “ Chief Gray Wolf, I have come with a message from the great white father.”

“What is your message?”

“ The Great White Father wants to talk peace with the great Chickasaw Chief.”

“Where is this great White Father?”

“ He is at the fort and he awaits your answer.”

“ Yes, tomorrow when the sun is strait up I will be there to talk to your Grate White Father.”

The soldier said but all the time looking at White Eagle” Great I will take him your answer.”

The soldiers then turned around and rode out of the village.

The next morning the old chief had on his finest dress attire with his bonnet with eagle feathers that hung cown to his ankles.

White Eagle's mother surprised him with a buckskin outfit of his own.

It was white with different colored beads on it.

She also had made him a bonnet of eagle feathers that came down to his waist.

When he put it on his mother told him," You will make your father proud my son."

Soon it was time to go and they left the village with the old chief in the lead with White eagle at his side.

When they arrived at the fort they were greeted by a couple of generals and the President of the United States.

They all got off of their horses and were led to a big table with chairs all around it.

Gray Wolf sat down right across from the President and White Eagle sat on his right.

Chief Gray Wolf said ,“ You are the Great White Father.”

The President said," I am The President,"

“ You will talk of peace to the Chickasaw?”

“ Yes it is my hope that there can be a peace between us.”

Gray Wolf begin to talk," All the land between the two rivers is Chickasaw land. my ancestors for many many years have lived here and hunted and lived off of the land.

Then the white man came, he killed all the buffalo just for the skin and left the meat to rot in the sun.

Many of my braves have been killed by the white man crossing our land.

Now what can you say to me to talk of peace.

The President said, " There will be many more white people moving west to settle the land. I cannot stop this from happening. There is land to the south that we call a reservation. You can move your people there and the Government will take care of you. You will be given cattle to feed your people with and there will be peace between us."

Gray Wolf Said, " You offer us peace if we will give up our land that we have called home for so long. You want to care for us and give us handouts, this is not the way of the Chickasaw."

Gray Wolf turned and looked at White Eagle and said, " This is my Son White Eagle, he will be the next chief of the Chickasaw, What does he say about this offer of piece?"

White Eagle stood up and said, " The Chickasaw will not leave their land that is there home."

The President said, " You have two weeks to start moving your people south. If you have not then the army is instructed to move you out by any means necessary."

He then looked at White Eagle and said, " You are not Chickasaw, why are you with them?"

White Eagle said, " Gray Wolf is my father I am Chickasaw."

" Well if you want what is best for your people then you will talk since to them for they will surely die."

“ Mr President, it is better to die like a man than to live like cattle. Also if this is all the army you have to send against us then you don’t know the Chickasaw.”
Then they all went and got on their horses and rode out of the fort and returned to the village.

After they returned to the village White Eagle put lookouts on two different plat to. One overlooking the fort and one in sight of the village.

He told them if the soldiers left the fort he wanted to know about it.

The one close to the fort would send up smoke signals and the other would see them and send up one of their own for the village to see.

Ten day had passed, a hunting party of ten braves had been gone for five days.

That was too long for a hunting party to be gone, they should have been back two days ago. Gray Wolf sent five more braves out to look for them.

When they returned they said they had found the hunting party, all dead.

They also said they saw a settlement on the Chickasaw side of the river and that the horses of the hunting party was in the corral.

When White Eagle was told he said, The Chickasaw did not start this war, they have only themselves to blame.”

They built a great fire that night and had a feast and danced the war dance and made peace with the Great Spirit.

The next morning White Eagle called for a war party. He picked out about forty braves to go with him.

They went to the settlement and caught them by surprise, killing everyone there and burning the buildings down. They had not lost a brave.

When they got back to the village White Eagle rode up to Gray Wolf, looked down at him and said, "Well my father the war has started."

There was a canyon not far from the village where the Comanchie used to drive the buffalo to save them from the white man.

The opening on one end was about twenty feet wide and only about eight feet on the other end.

Inside the canyon was about a quarter mile wide and one mile long.

White Eagle got all his braves together and told them of a plan that he had come up with.

Two days later they saw the smoke signals, the soldiers were leaving the post.

There was about a hundred of them and they were headed for the Indian village.

All together White Eagle had about two hundred braves.

He divided them into three parts and headed out to meet the soldiers. When they came across the soldiers

they shot a few arrows at them and the soldiers returned fire.

White Eagle and his band started to run away. The soldiers mounted and took off after them.

The Indians ran into the canyon with the soldiers not far behind them.

When they got to the narrow passage on the other end they went through.

On top of the canyon wall was more Indians. After White Eagle and his band got out of the canyon the Indians on top of the canyon wall released a large pile of stones that they had put there before.

That end of the canyon was blocked tight.

At that arrows rained down on the soldiers hitting their mark well. The soldiers ran to the other side of the canyon just to have more arrows come at them from the other side.

There was only about twenty or thirty left and they mounted and started for the entrance that they had entered the canyon only to have White Eagle and his band there to finish them all off.

Then he gathered all his braves together and attacked the fort and burned it to the ground.

They were watching the fort burn and one of the braves said, " Maybe the white man will leave us alone now."

White Eagle looked at hen and said, " The white man will never leave us alone, they are like the stars in the sky."

" What will we do White Eagle?"

“We will live like cattle or we will die like Chickasaw’s.”

Little did he know that Five hundred new troops were on there way.

Three days later at sunrise and most of the village was still asleep.

They heard the sound of the trumpet and running horses.

The soldiers came down on the village killing anything that moved. Gray wolf was killed as soon as he came out of his tee pee. The Indians fought bravely but had no chance.

White Eagle was hit and he fell, not dead but unconscious.

When it was all over they rounded up all of the people left alive and put chains on the men.

When they brought White Eagle to one of them asked, Sir what will we do with this one?”

“Him we will hang.”

They took all the Chickasaw people to the reservation and took White Eagle to a town and tended his wounds and locked him up.

The next day he was taken into a civilian court and sentenced to hang in three days.

He had kept a spoon from one of his meals and sharpened the handle to a sharp point.

The night deputy was an old man in his sixties.

It was late night on the second day and he knew he would hang the next day if he didn't do something. About midnight he lay on his bunk and started moaning and groaning.

After a while the deputy came in to the cell door and ask him what was the matter with him.

He said nothing but just kept moaning and groaning.

The old deputy opened the cell door and came over to him and shook him and said, " what's wrong with you."

At that time he jumped up and put the point of the sharpened spoon to the throat of the old man.

White Eagle said," Be very quiet and you won't be hurt."

" Yes sir."

He took the old man's boots and hat and clothes then tied him up and locked the cell door t

He got a rifle and ammo from the office Then he went out the back door and left town.

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Then he disappeared into the hills where he would not be found.

CHAPTER

White Eagle becomes David o Shannon again.

White Eagle hid out in the hills for about a month. After that he decided that He only had one chance and that was to head west and try to find his family. He would become David o Shannon again and he would travel at night and hide out during the day for at least the first two weeks.

The clothes that he took from the old man fit but the boots were just a little big.

However if he wore his moccasins they fit pretty good. With that thought he started west, walking by night and hiding out during the day.

Two months went by and he had gone about three hundred miles. he was walking down the road and came to a farm house.

There was a aroma in the air that smelled awful good to him.

He remembered that smell from when he was a kid.

It was hot biscuits and coffee.

There was a light in the window so he thought he would try to get something to eat.

He stopped in front of the house and yelled out. “ Is anyone home in there.” No one answered.

He yelled again,” Hello in the house, is there anyone home.”

This time the door opened and a figure stood in the doorway.

It was easy for David to tell it was a woman and she held what looked like a shotgun in her hands.

“ Who are you?” she asked

“ My name is David o Shannon mam I am headed west and I saw your light and smelled your fine cooking and will be glad to work for a meal Mam.

She said,” Come closer and let me see you but don’t try anything, I have a gun.”

David walked up until he was in the light of the doorway.

David said,” I mean you no harm mam if you don’t want to feed me just say so and I will move on but I sure am hungry.”

She look David up and down and said “ You can come in and sit down at the table.”

After he sat down she went to the stove and got him a bowl of stew and some biscuits and coffee.

She sat down at the other end of the table.

“ My name is Sally Wingate, most people just call me Sal.”

She looked like a woman that had been put through hard times.

She looked to be about forty but David thought she most likely wasn’t that old.

She asked,” Where are you from?”

“David had to think a minute it had been so long he had almost forgotten.

“I’m from Indiana Mam, headed west to try to find my family.”

“ Where did your family go?”

“ Don’t rightly know mam, just know that they headed west.”

“ There’s a lot of country out west.” She replied

“ I know mam but the name o Shannon should not be hard to find.”

David asked,” Where is your husband mam?”

She replied,” He was killed by the Chickasaw about a year ago.”

“Sorry to hear that mam, but if you need I will stay in your barn for a few days and help you with the chores.

She said,” Don’t you believe in haircuts?”

“Yes mam but I haven’t been able to get it cut since I left Indiana.”

**“I’ll cut it for you tomorrow; you can sleep in the barn.
.”**

David finished his meal said goodnight and went to the barn for a good nights sleep in the hay loft.

David awoke to the sound of Sal milking the cow.

He put his boots on and climbed down the ladder.

“Well what would you like for me to do first?” he asked.

There’s a pan of water on the table at the back door, you can wash up for breakfast then we will find you something to do.”

He didn’t know why she wanted him to wash but if that’s what she wanted he would do it.

When he finished he went around front and Sal was coming out of the barn.

She said,” You can come in and eat now.”

“Yes Mam.”

She sat him at the table that was full of food.

He had biscuits and gravy, eggs and potatoes and bacon and three cups of coffee.

When he finished Sal said, "You are a hungry man."

"Sorry Mam but I can't ever remember eating anything so good in my life."

Sal smiled and said, "Well I don't think you ever washed them clothes either. I have some of my husband's clothes and I think they may fit if I hem them up a little."

"Thank you Mam I guess these are starting to smell a little."

"More than just a little David and you can call me Sal."

"OK Sal."

Sal gave David enough chores to do him through the day.

After supper she told him to come outside and sit in a chair and gave him a real nice hair cut.

She said, "There now you look like a man and not a wild Indian."

He thought She didn't know how close she had come to describing him.

She gave him a bar of soap and wash rag and towel and some clothes and told him to go to the creek behind the farm and take a good bath and change clothes.

When he returned she gave him a hat and socks and a pair of boots that looked like they were almost new.

David stayed with Sal all summer. She taught him all about farming. When the crops were gathered in and they took them to market she gave him half of the money, almost eighty dollars.

She asked him to stay until the next fall They could double the crops and she would make him the same deal.

He agreed.

They built a bunk in the back room and David moved into the house.

The back room was full of firewood for the winter but he had just enough room for a bunk.

It was a hard cold winter but it came and went. It was spring once again and it was time for David to learn to plow the fields.

It didn't take him long until he was plowing them roes strait and deep.

But he never knew that farm work could be so hard.

By the end of June all the crops were in the ground.

They had almost three times what they had last year.

Every so often the Calvary would ride by and David would just wave at them, they never stopped.

By the time summer was over they had the farm looking real good. They gathered the crops and took them to market and sold them. The price was up on just about everything and they made about three hundred dollars each.

Sal was talking about next year but David told her," I'm sorry Sal but I must be moving on now, I have to find my family."

Sal Said, " Well I knew it would come sooner or later but I was hoping you would stay on."

I haven't seen my family since I was eight years old, I must find them, you do understand don't you."

" Yes David I understand."

Thank you for taking me in and for all that you have done for me."

" When will you be leaving?"

" Tomorrow morning."

" Why so soon?"

" I have to stop in town and buy me a horse and saddle."

" Well I'll fix you a bedroll with some extra clothes in it."

The next morning when David got up Sal had his bedroll ready with a heavy coat and gloves.

" If you are going to travel in the winter time I don't want you to get cold."

"

Sal It has been just wonderful knowing you, and if I ever get back this way I sure would like to stop and see you."

" Oh if you are going then get out of here before I start crying."

"Good by Sal."

" Good By David."

David walked out to the road, turned and looked back and waved then started walking down the road toward town

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**By the time David got to town it was mid morning.
The first thing he passed was a blacksmith's shop and
there was horses in the corral.
David went in and ask the blacksmith if the horses were
for sale.**

“ Yep they sure are.”

**The man wanted one hundred for a black with a white
face.**

**David looked him over and walked him around a bit
and said, “I'll give you one twenty if you throw in a
saddle bridle and saddle bags.”**

**The man showed him what he had for that price but he
saw another one that he wanted.**

He got all for one fifty.

**He got his bill of sale and saddled his horse and walked
him down to the general store which was also a gun
shop.**

**He went inside and got him some supplies and a
sidearm and rifle and ammo.**

**He put his supplies in his saddlebags and put water in
his canteen at the pump got on his horse and left town.**

**David stopped in a small town in Kansas. He went to
the sheriff's office and walked in.**

The sheriff said, " Can I help you?"

" Yes I was wondering if you ever heard of anyone named O Shannon coming through here about twenty years ago. "

"No I can't help you there I have only been here about ten years but you may ask the man at the general store, he was here at that time."

" Thank you sir I'll do that."

David left the sheriff's office and walked down the street to the general store.

" May I help you sir?"

"I was told that you were here about twenty years ago."

"Yes sir, been here near twenty five years now."

"Have you ever heard the name O Shannon came through about twenty years ago?"

" Yes sir sure have, biggest thing that ever happen in this town."

What happened?"

" He came into town with his family, must have been eight or ten children. A couple of drifters started getting fresh with his oldest daughter. He didn't like it and he told them to get away and leave her alone.

The drifter took her by the arm and O Shannon hit him and knocked him down.

The drifter drew his gun and shot O Shannon and he didn't even have a gun.

He's berried on boot hill."

" What happen to the drifters?"

"They are up there to, We hung em. Did you know O Shannon?"

" Yes he was my father."

“ I’m sorry to give you that bad news but you ask.”

“ Yes, Thank you, do you know where his family went?”

“ No I don’t, they left town after the hanging.”

Before leaving town he went to the graveyard to pay respect to his father.

On his marker was carved the names of his wife and all ten children.

Each town he would go through he would ask about his family but no luck.

After all twenty years is a long time.

It was starting to get real cold at night so he was starting to look for a place to stay the winter.

David was riding through a wooded area. He had been in the woods for two days now. The weather had turned very cold and it was beginning to snow very hard.

He knew that he would have to find shelter soon or the snow would get to deep to travel through.

He thought about Sal and how warm it was in her house and them fine meals she would fix for him.

David spotted a cabin from the top of a hill. He had to go through another valley and up another hill to get to it.

He thought Hope someone is home and hope they are friendly.

When David got to the cabin he could see that it was deserted. He got off of his horse and went inside. There was a fireplace and it had shutters on the windows.

It wasn’t great but it was livable.

There was a room off to the side where he could keep his horse. He thought, That room is better than the

mane house but it had no fireplace. He looked around, oh well at least the roof is in good shape.

He put his horse in the other room and took off the saddle and blanket. There was plenty of firewood around so he gathered up all he could get and started a fire. It wasn't long until it was nice and warm in there. He made him a pallet in front of the fireplace and settled in for the night.

David was awoken by his horse making a lot of noise. He got up and went to the door leading to the room where he had put his horse.

The horse was snorting and pawing the ground. Then David heard something else. Grrrr, He stopped still. Grrrr.

He heard it again, much louder this time. His horse was going crazy.

David went to a window to open the shutter a little to see what it was.

When he cracked the shutter it flew open all the way knocking him to the floor.

David looked up to see a verry large bare with his head and one paw inside the window.

David grabbed his rifle and started firing .

The bare kept trying to get into the window.

Finely after shooting the bare ten times he fell outside the window.

He got his knife and went outside and started skinning the big bare. He had done this many times and the big bare would be meat to last him all winter as long as the weather stayed cold.

He hung the skin on the wall in the cabin and tied a rope to the carcass and to his horse and pulled what was left of it out into the woods.

Then returned his horse to his stall and turned in again for the night.

It was almost noon the next day David was cooking some of the bare meat over the fire.

It's going to be tough but it will fill his belly.

David heard someone shout Hay you in the cabin. Hay opens up. David stood up and got his rifle and went to the door. He opened the door and said, "What do you want?"

"Howdy, names George Phelps, just want to warm up a little.

David said, "Come on in.

The man walked in through the door and over to the fireplace.

He was around sixty years old.

"What kind of meat you got there fellow?"

"Bare." replied David

The man turned sharply and said.

"You got one toe?"

"Is that what you call him?"

"That's what everyone in the valley calls him, don't you know that?"

"I'm not from around here." David said

“How did you get him? People around here have been trying to kill him for two years.”

“He tried to come through the window; it took ten shots to put him down.”

“Man alive I’ve been tracking him all over these woods and he comes right to you, if that don’t beat all.”

“Why did you want him so bad?”

“ You don’t know? There’s a five hundred dollar reward on that bare skin you got hanging there.”

“ Where do I collect it?” said David

“The sheriff’s office in Broken ridge.”

“ Where is that?”

“Its about twenty five miles from here I can show you if you split with me.”

David said,“ I’ll give you fifty dollars.”

The old man said,“ Make it a hundred and you have a deal.”

David Laughed and said,“ You drive a hard bargain George, ok one hundred you got it.”

David rolled up the bare skin and saddled his horse and tied the skin on the saddle and said to the old man.

“ Well lets get started before it starts snowing again.”

They had to walk all of the way to town.

It was almost dark by the time they got there.

They went strait to the sheriff’s office.

David walked in and dropped the skin on the floor and said,

“I hear you have a reward of five hundred dollars on this bare.”

The sheriff looked at David then at George.

He got up out of his chair and went around and untied the skin and look at the front paw.

“ Yep sonny that’s old one toe all right.”

He went to the safe and brought out five hundred dollars and handed it to David.

David thanked the sheriff and left the jail with George tagging behind him.

David stopped and gave George one hundred dollars and told him thanks and walked away.

He took his horse to the livery stable and put him in a stall and fed him.

Then he went to the hotel and got a room and a meal and turned in for the night.

The next morning he got dressed and went down to get some breakfast. Then he went and fed his horse. The owner of the livery stable was there and he ask David if that was his horse. David said it was and ask how much he owed him. The man told him fifty cents a day.

At that moment someone came running down the street yelling, “ The bank is being robbed, the bank is being robbed.”

The Sheriff came out of the jail just as five men came out of the bank.

They mounted their horses and started shooting at the sheriff. He was hit by two bullets, one in the leg and one in his chest.

David took his rifle from his saddle and started shooting at the bank robbers.

Two fell from their horses the other three took off the other way. David fired once more and another one fell

to the ground. He fired again and one of the last two leaned forward on his horse and they rode out of town. The sheriff was dead and two of the bank robbers were dead.

The other one wasn't hit bad.

Two of the men of the town took him to the jail and locked him up.

When they found out that David had shot the three bank robbers they came to thank him.

One of the men who came to thank him was the town mayor.

David told them that he had just stopped there to spend the winter if he could find a place.

The mayor said " Why don't you take the job of sheriff we don't have one now."

David said" I have never been a lawman."

The Mayor said," It's not a hard job, this is the first bank robbery we ever had."

"What does it pay?"

Ten dollars a month and you get a room at the hotel and free meals in the restaurant."

I'll take the job but only through the winter."

" Good enough I'll swear you in." Said the mayor.

The Mayor swore David in and gave him his badge and then he left.

David left there and went over to the sheriff's office went in and sat down behind the desk.

He looked around at the place.

He thought," It sure was a mess."

The man in one of the cells came to the cell door and said to David.

“ Are you the one who shot me?”

“ Yes.”

“ My friends will be back for me you know, they will burn this one horse town.”

“ Two of your friends are dead and another wounded and may be dead by now, so you don’t have many friends left and this town will most likely hang you.”

The man went back and lay down on his bunk and David got up and started cleaning his office.

Things was quit for the next couple of days.

The town was getting ready for a trial and a hanging. David was in his office and the door opened and in walked George Phelps.

“ I heard you had taken the job as sheriff. “

“Only for the winter.” Replied David.

George looked over at the cell. “ So this is the Owl Hoot we’re gonna hang.”

“David answered,” Yep, after the trial.”

“ When are we gonna try him?”

“ The Judge will be here in three days.”

“Well I can hardly wait, the sheriff was a good friend of mine and I ain’t never seen a hanging before.”

“ Well, Said David, It’s not a pretty sight.”

George walked to the door and said to David,” Well see you at the trial.” Then left.

Three days later and The judge

Had arrived and they were ready for the prisoner.

David opened the cell door and told the man to lay on the bunk on his belly and put his hands behind his back.

He did as he was told and David put the cuffs on him then got him up and took him to the saloon where they were holding the trial.

The trial lasted about one hour and the jury said guilty so the judge sentence him to hang the next day.

David took the man back to the jail.

The man said “ that was not much of a trial.”

David said,” It’s more than you gave the sheriff.”

The town spent all night building a gallous, the next morning they hung him.

The post office was in the general store.

David walked into the general store and closed the door.

“What can I do for you sheriff?”

“ Are you the postmaster?”

“ Yes sir, sure am.”

“David explained,” I was separated from my family a little over twenty years ago. They were headed west, I think Oklahoma but can’t be for certain.”

“ What would you like me to do?”

“ Is there a way you can contact the postmasters in Oklahoma to see if there is a family named O Shannon in their district?”

“ Yes Sir I can do that but it will take postage and a lot of time.”

David said,“ Here is twenty dollars, you just let me know when you have done enough to earn this. Also let me know as soon as anything positive comes in.

“ Yes Sir Sheriff I’ll do just that.”

David turned and walked out the door and down the street to the saloon and went inside.

The Bartender said,“ Hi Sheriff what will it be?”

“ Coffee.” Said David

The bartender brought David his coffee.

“ Sheriff did you ever get the two bank robbers that got away?”

“No but one of them was wounded so he could be dead by now and they didn’t get away with any money.”

“ Well are you going to go after them? After all you are the sheriff now.”

“ I am the town sheriff making ten dollars a month. Would you like to join a posse and go after them?”

“Well uh no sir I can’t do that.”

“ I didn’t think so, see you later.”

David turned around and went out the door and back to the sheriff’s office.

David leaned back in his chair and put his feet on his desk. He thought about his years with the Indians. He thought about Thunder and wondered where he was now and if he went back to the wild.

He also thought about Sal and those fine meals she would fix.

The Mayor was right nothing much ever happens here in this town.

Mrs. Burks had a chicken thief. That turned out to be a fox.

Someone gets a little to drunk and has to spend the night in jail.

“ Oh well, he yawned, I have a warm office a hotel room free meals for the winter, what more could I ask for?”

He drifted off to sleep.

Three weeks later the door flew open.

“ Sheriff, Sheriff, I got an answer, I found your family I think.”

David looked up , it was the postmaster.

“What, You found them, where are they?”

“ I think this may be them, this letter is from a postmaster in Cross Creek Oklahoma, He said there is a ranch about twenty miles out of town called the bar zero. He also said it was family owned and run by two twin brothers named O Shannon .”

“That is great news.”

“ Do you think it’s them?”

“ It sure sounds like it, my two oldest brothers were twins.”

“ Will you be going there or are you going to write them?”

“ How far is it from here?”

“ About three hundred miles I think.”

“Well I will head down there in the spring.”

“Are you going to write them and let them know you are coming.”

“No I think I will surprise them.”

The Postmaster said good by and left the office.

David sat back in his chair thinking about his family.

“I wonder if my Mother is still living and I had nine brothers and sisters. I wonder if they are all alive.

It sure will be nice to see them all and I hope they will be glad to see me.

They won't believe all I've been through.

Things went well for David for the next couple of months. Time went by very slow but the office was warm as long as he had a good fire going in the stove. A lot of the time he would just stay and sleep on a bunk at the jail which was right in his office.

Every so often he would go and get his horse and take a ride just to keep him from getting lazy.

It was now late January and he figured he would leave in about four or five weeks.

Old George had been in to see him many times and David got the idea that George wanted his job when he leaves.

David got up to put a piece of wood in the stove.

The door opened and the postmaster came in and said.

“Sheriff there is a couple of drifters in the saloon.”

“What are they doing?”

“Right now they are just having a drink but who knows what they are up to.”

“ Well there’s no law against having a drink.”

“Well don’t you think you should check me out.”

“Liston, I cant shake down every stranger that comes through town.”

O K Sheriff I hope you are right about them, I’ll see you later.”

“ So Long.”

David looked out the window toward the saloon.

There were two horses tied at the hitching post.

He put on his coat and got his rifle and left the office.

He walked down the board sidewalk to the saloon and went inside.

He walked over to the bar and ordered his coffee.

He was standing about ten feet from the two men who were also at the bar.

He looked over at them and said,

“ You fellows come far?”

One of them said,

“ Yep pretty far.”

The other one said, “ It’s just too cold out there to ride very far.”

The other said, “ I’m glad we found this town I didn’t even know it was here.”

“ Where are you headed?” Asked David.

“ About a hundred miles west, got a job at a ranch waiting on us there.

The man closest to David stood up strait and opened his coat.

David saw a touch of fear in the mans face.

David said, “ Don’t touch that gun.”

The man froze.

David walked out away from the bar to where he was behind the two men.

“ Now take off your gun belts and put them on the bar.”

The two men did as they were told.

David told the bartender to get the gun belts, he did.

One of the men said,” What’s the idea we haven’t done anything.”

David said,” If that’s so then you have nothing to worry about.

David told the two men to walk out the door and head for the jail and they did as they were told.

When they got about ten feet from the door David told them to stop.

Then he open the door to the office and went inside and told them to come on in.

He put them in a cell and locked them up.

The Bartender had followed them and brought the gun belts. David told him to tell the doctor to come over to the jail.

Not long after the doctor came in to the office.

“ Are you all right sheriff.

“ I’m fine doc. I want you to check one of these men out.

“

David then got the keys and unlocked the cell and told one of the men to come out.

When he came out of the cell David told him to take of his shirt.

The man did as he was told.

“ Doc. See if this man has been shot in the back in the last few months.”

Doc. Said, “yes here is a bullet wound that could be just a few months old.”

OK Doc. You can go now but stop at the bank and have that teller that was shot during the bank robbery to come over here.”

He told the man to get back into the cell.

One of then said,

“ What’s this all about Sheriff?”

“ You are the two that got away when the bank was robbed.”

“ That’s crazy, why would we come back to this town if that were true?”

“Because you thought the town wouldn’t have a sheriff yet.”

“ You can’t prove any of that.”

“ You were a bad shot, that teller you shot is still alive and he can identify you if you are the ones that did it.”

Shortly after a man came into the office and said,

“ You want me sheriff?”

“ Yes, take a look at these two and tell me if you ever seen them before.”

The man went over and looked at the two in the cell.

“They were in on the bank robbery, that one is the one that shot me.”

David gave the man a piece of paper and a pencil and told him to write down what happened in his own words and sign it.

The man did as he was told.

David said, "Well it looks like we are going to have another hanging.

" This cracker box will never hold us sheriff."

" The judge will be here in two weeks and so will you, they will give you a fair trial and then hang you like they did your friend."

Three days later the Mayor came into the door,

" Hi Sheriff how are you?"

" Just fine Mayor."

" I just wanted to come by and tell you what a fine job you are doing as sheriff and ask you to stay on here."

" Well thank you Mayor but I told you it was only for the winter, I found where my family is at and I will be heading for Oklahoma in about five or six weeks."

" That's too bad you are leaving I mean. I don't know who we can get to do the job."

" Well Mayor I think George is wanting the job and he would make a fine sheriff."

"Well I don't know."

" Well I could make him my deputy until I leave then you can see how he will do on the job."

" OK sheriff you do that and we will see. You let me know how he does."

The mayor left and David laughed a little to himself.

One of the men got up from his bunk and said,

" Hay sheriff can I talk to you?"

“What do you want” said David.

“I heard you tell that man you were leaving in a few weeks.”

“That’s right.”

“So why leave here broke when you don’t have to.”

“What do you mean?”

You let us go and tell them we escaped and we will clean out that bank and split the money three ways.”

“Do you know what that would get me?”

“No what?”

“Hung right beside you.”

David put his coat on and picked up the cell keys and his rifle and went out the door.

He went two or three places before he found George Phelps.

Once he found him he told him he wanted him to be his deputy.

George jumped at the idea so David swore him in.

The Judge was late getting there.

It was late April when he arrived.

They set up the saloon for a trial.

David and George got the prisoners out of the cells and put the leg irons on them and walked them to the saloon.

The trial was short and they were found guilty and sentenced to hang the next morning.

All their belongings were sold and used to pay for the gallows.

Early next morning they were hanged.

David told George to tell the Mayor that he wanted to see him.

When the Mayor came to his office David told him that he would be leaving in two days.

So the Mayor made George the new sheriff and David said good by to all and left town on his way to Oklahoma.

David rode for days going through town after town.

Each time he would stop in a town he would ask if they knew where the town of Cross Creek was at.

No one could tell him where it was.

Finally he asked a stage coach driver.

“ Yep, see that road right there you get on that road, it’s about fifty miles.”

“ Thank you.” Said David

He was hoping he was about at the end of his journey.

It would be nice to get to know his family again.

As he rode he relived the first eight years of his life with his family.

Then of course his life with the Indians passed through his mind.

He never thought his brothers would be ranchers. They were farmers by trade.

But I guess you take what opportunity life gives you out here.

Finally early afternoon David came to a road with a large cello over the gate. On it was a big zero with a bar across it.

David sat there on his horse for a while just looking at it.

He got off of his horse and walked him over and opened the gate.

He went in leading his horse and closed the gate.

He got back on his horse and started down the road toward the main ranch house.

It must have been three miles to the ranch house.

There was someone sitting on the front porch and some children playing in the yard.

David stopped and watched the children for a while and looked the place over.

It was a very big house it had to have a lot of rooms in it.

Some more people came out of the house and was looking his way.

He begin to walk his horse, he was now about five hundred yards from the house.

Slowly he moved forward until he was at the hitching post.

He got off and tied his horse to the hitching post and walked to the porch where all the people were standing.

There was one little lady about mid sixties . When he got to the porch he took off his hat and smiled at them and started to speak.

Before he could say a word the little old lady said,“ Oh My God, My David.”

She started crying and stood up and threw her arms around his neck and kept saying,“ I knew you were alive my David.

Then they all gathered around him and welcomed him home.

Later as he was talking to his two oldest brothers, Harry and Larry.

He had told them his story about his life up to now.

Larry said, "David that is a incredible story."

"Yes but it's all true."

Larry said, You know the Chickasaw reservation joins our land on the north. We have a lot of trouble with them taking our cattle.

David said, "Have you tried talking to them?"

Larry said, No we don't know the language and it probably wouldn't do any good anyway.

They are protected by the Government so we can't shoot them and we have complained to the Government and that doesn't help either.

David asked, How many cattle have they taken???"

In The last two years about five hundred head.

"I can't believe that, There must be some mistake,"

Said David

"Well it's the truth Said Larry

David said "Tomorrow we will go and talk to them.

"OK if you think it will help but this has got to stop."

The next day all eight brothers saddled up and rode to the reservation.

When they entered the village the chief came out of his Tee Pee.

They all got off of the horses and said in the Indians language."

I would talk with Running Deer."

The chief pointed to a spot on the ground and sat down Indian stile.

David did the same thing.

“ What would you say to Running Deer?”

“ I would ask him if his braves have been taking cattle from the ranch next to the reservation?”

“ Running Deer said, The Indian Agent gets a heard of cattle from the Government, he splits it and brings half of what is ours then takes the rest north to sell.”

“Are you sure about that Running Deer?”

“ I am sure.” How is it you speak our language so well?”

“ You do not know me Running Deer.”

“ I know you not.”

“I am White Eagle, Son of Gray Wolf.”

“ But I saw you fall the day the soldiers came.”

“ I was knocked out, they took me in and was going to hang me but I escaped , the men here are my white brothers.

Running Deer said, “ I will know if you are telling me the truth, come with me.

They walked around a bunch of Tee Pees . There they saw a small corral.

In it was a Golden Palomino.

When David first saw him his heart just about jumped out of his chest.

“ Thunder.” He said.

“ If you are White Eagle then he will know it.

David walked over to the fence, Thunder looked at him then turned away.

They were about ten feet apart.

David began to whistle the old Irish tune.

Thunder's ears razed up and he looked at David then walked over to him and David started petting him. Running Deer told David, He is old but he is yours if you want him.

"Yes I want him, Said David.

David said Do you know where they keep the cattle until they take them north?"

The chief said, "Look." Then he took a stick and drew a circle on the ground, then he drew a line threw it.

He said." What is this?"

David answered," That is our brand.

The chief said," Now look."

He drew a line up on each side making the bar a triangle.

Larry saw it and said," Well I'll be, That's Jeff Dawson's brand."

David said," Chief are they changing our brands?"

" Yes my friend.

"Ok chief we will take care of this and you will be getting the cattle that is coming to you for your people."

David got Thunder and they left the reservation and headed home.

David told Larry and Harry they should go to the army and talk to them. Tell them that the Indian agent is in cahoots with this Jeff Dawson and steeling our cattle and Indian cattle.

Tell him if he doesn't want a range war here he will do something about it.

Harry said," Don't you want to go with us David?"

“ No Thanks if they find out that I am White Eagle they may still want to hang me.”

David took Thunder home and fed him and turned him lose in a pasture. “ This is where you will spend the last of your days.”

**The next morning the two oldest boys
Went to talk to the Commanding Officer at the fort.
He did not seem to interested in what they had to say.
He just told them to go on home and he would take care of it.**

“ Well, said Larry, It looks like we are going to have to take care of this our self.”

David said,” Show me where the cattle were when they were taken.”

They took him out to where the cattle were grazing when they were stolen. David looked all around then got off his horse and looked at the ground.

He said ,” The cattle were not taken by Indians.”

**He picked up a butt of a rolled cigarette and said,”
There’s not an unshod track around anywhere.”**

“ Well I’m glad of that,” said Larry

Harry said,” will just have to start having night watch,”

It was Saturday night and the family had a big party to celebrate David’s return. All the family was there brothers , Sisters, nieces, nephews and Inlaws.

They all lived on the ranch but some lived in different locations.

There was music and dancing and they all had a great time.

They introduced David to a widow lady from town Abigail Turner and they hit it off real well.

They had a great time and made David feel at home.

The next morning one of the hired hands came riding in to tell them that some of the cattle had been taken.

They all saddle there horses and went out to where the cattle was taken from.

David found the trail and they followed it.

The trail led them to a box canyon on Jeff Dawson's ranch.

They went into the canyon and found some of Dawson's men changing the brands.

There was a gunfight and two of Dawson's men was killed and three were captured.

They made camp and sent one of the men to get the U S Marshall.

The three men was glad to talk to the U S Marshal and told him everything about Dawson and The Indian Agent.

They were all arrested and taken to trial.

Most went to prison.

They also sent out a new Indian Agent and all was well with the Indians.

David saw Abigail a lot after that and a year later they got married.

So life turned out perfect for our hero. dThe End