

Appendicitis Fatal to John Crow, Last Chief of Cayuga Indians

Death in Hospital of 75-Year-Old Leader, Only One
Versed in Ancient Lore of His Tribe, May
Mean Obliteration of Colorful Rituals

The last chief of the Cayugas Indians is dead.

John Crow, 75-year-old leader of the Indians from the East who hold allotments in eastern Ottawa county closely associated with the Senecas, died Sunday night of appendicitis. He was taken to Miami Baptist hospital last week.

The passing of Chief Crow means abolition of almost all the ancient Indian ritual for 200 Cayugas in this county, the remnant of a once mighty clan of eastern American natives. The dead chieftain was the only man in the tribe versed in the lore handed down from the past by word of mouth, and for that reason it is believed there will be no special Indian ritual at his funeral ceremony at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon.

The Rev. H. L. Wallace of the Friends church probably will officiate

at the service to be held at Bassett's grove, tribal stomp grounds of Chief Crow's people, tomorrow. Chief Crow lived two miles east of Turkeyford.

The death of the chief is also expected to mean an end to the traditional green corn feast of the Seneca-Cayugas at Bassett's grove, partly because only the leadership of the old Indians have been keeping alive the ancient customs and partly because only Chief Crow knew the ceremony.

The aged chieftain was 75 years old last Christmas day. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. John Crow; one son, Jerry Crow; one daughter, Mrs. Susan Bomberry and several grandchildren. Maude Lee Mudd, much-publicized Indian heiress, is a niece.

The Cooper Undertaking company will take the body to its last resting place.