

## **The Story of John Enos Transcript**

*Words by Michial Greywolf Garvin*

### Introduction in Shoshone

I said good morning my relatives. I hope you feel well. My name is Grey Wolf in the Shoshone language, and my government name is Michial Garvin. I was born in Lander, Wyoming in 1955.

This story is about my great-grandfather John Enos, and I was told this story by my grandmother Eva O'Neill, John Enos' granddaughter, who was there when John made his journey to the spirit world during the seasonal hunting and gathering migration in the mountains of the Wind Rivers.

The way the story was told to me by my grandmother was that John took his clan, or his family, up into the Wind Rivers above Brooks Lake and on into Yellowstone. In our 1863 and 1868 treaty, the government put in there that we had the rights to hunt on all unoccupied federal land because they knew that once we were placed on the reservation, our game would run short. And so he used to take his clan and his family up into the mountains, into Yellowstone, up into the Wind Rivers, and spend all summer up there hunting. He was hunting elk and deer, the women were digging roots, and they were getting ready for wintertime.

John Enos was born in 1811 in Montana. His mother and Chief Washakie's mother were sisters. He fluently spoke Flathead, Sioux, Shoshone, English, Spanish, and French. Chief Washakie invited him to come down from Montana and make his home on what was known as the Shoshone Reservation. Washakie granted him a large spread of land on the Bighorn River, which was later renamed the Wind River.

John Enos was a prominent figure amongst the Shoshone tribal members. He knew of Charles Bonneville's exploration in Fremont County and he acted as a scout for John Fremont during the exploration of the west into the Great Basin and on into California.

In 1860, John Enos knew John Bozeman and acted as a guide along the Bozeman Trail that connected the Oregon Trail and southern Montana goldfields. He also knew Jeremiah Johnson, a famous mountain man. And in 1876, Captain Reno asked John to act as a scout for General Custer before the Battle of the Little Bighorn. But after Enos asked how many soldiers Custer had, he refused.

John Enos and his wife Julia were the parents of twelve children. My grandmother told me that he would use the sweat lodge and would bathe in the Wind River every morning

before sunrise so that he would be clean, even in the wintertime when he had to chop a hole through the ice.

John was a noble hunter and trapper and continued to take his family hunting and gathering in the Shoshone traditional lands. He died on October 6, 1915, at the age of over 100 while hunting above Brooks Lake, and he made that journey on horseback.

Enos Lake and Enos Creek in the Teton Wilderness are likely named after John, an enduring legacy of the maintained kinship to the region.