

Artwork by Lenape Artists

This is a list of Lenape (Delaware) Indian artists and photos of them and examples of their work. The time period is from about 1920 up to the present. They are arranged by year of birth. We anticipate there will be another list soon featuring other Delaware tribal artists and their work.



Jacob Parks

1890 – 1949

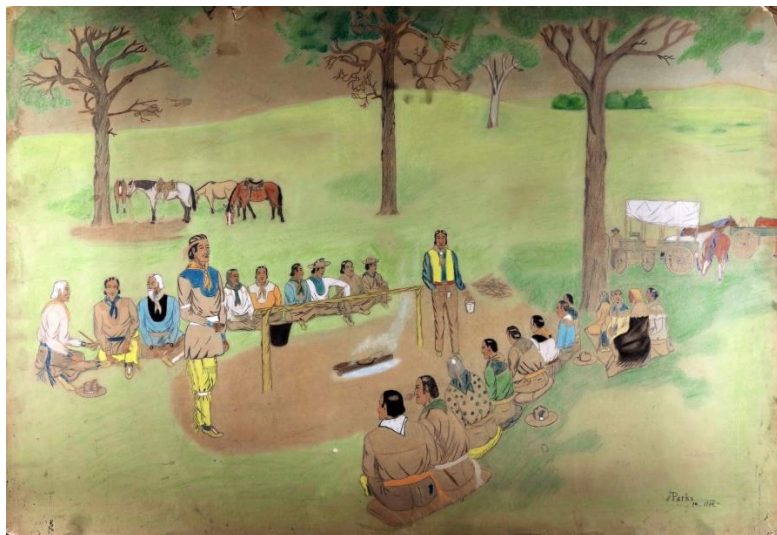
Parks was one of two drummers in the Big House church so he knew the subject well. He also served as an interpreter for the Delaware tribal council meetings.

Here are some quotes from letters from Jacob Parks to Dr. Frank Speck. This first one is March 30, 1932: "I'm now starting to paint an interior view of the big house showing a part of the annual ceremony. As you know Dr. I am no artist and the work is naturally quite slow and tedious but I have a very intimate knowledge of the subject and I am doing my very utmost to produce worthy paintings of the same."



Outside the Xinkwikaon

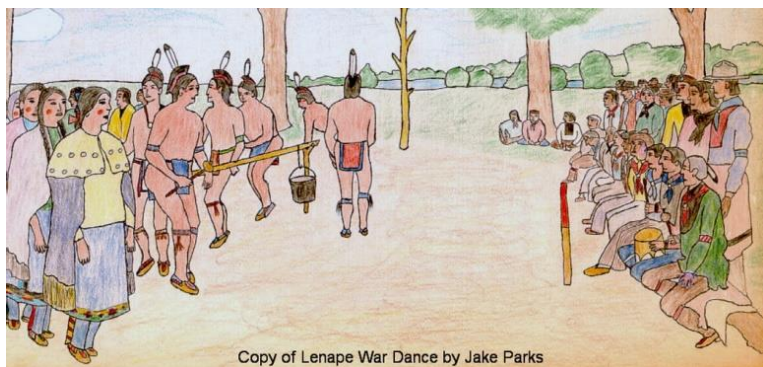
This is a pencil sketch that Jake did before making an oil painting. Unfortunately the whereabouts of the oil painting is not known.



Grease Drinking Ceremony

Parks wrote: "I am now going to work on what . . . white people referred to as 'grease drinking.' September 12, 1932,

The drawings I propose to make will be in series, that is several drawings of each ceremonial which will give a more or less complete pictorial study of the particular ceremonial which the drawings will illustrate, and for informative or educational purposes I should think that would be best. Not only will the actual ceremonial be shown, but also a general idea or perspective of the appearance of such gatherings of Delawares at a time when their ceremonials were still a great thing to them. Their physical appearance, equipment and environment, a good clean natural unmarked landscape and so on.



Delaware War Dance

Parks to Speck: "Other subjects I intend to draw are: Ancient war Dance, masing-ho-li-kun dance, Doll dance."

Parks also wrote on 3.7.33: "Dear Speck, I received your letter yesterday, the 6th, and will say that you are entirely welcome to the loan of the painting, yours very truly, J. A. Parks."

This is a tracing by Jim Rementer of a very faded sketch done by Jake Parks

We are not sure which painting he is referring to in the letter but Speck's grandson has other Parks paintings and they are awaiting publication.



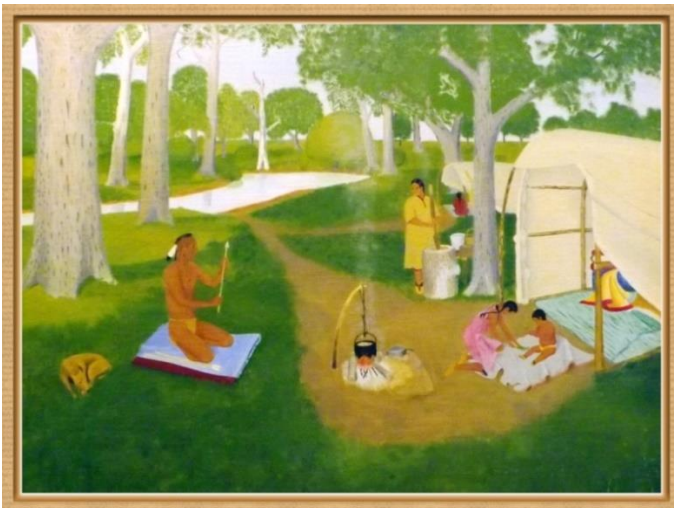
Indian Police

When in Kansas the Delawares had their own police force and here are three of them stopping for the night.



Last Removal

This sad scene shows a Delaware family when they were forced to leave their home in Kansas to move to Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). They had lived in Kansas from 1830 until 1867.



Delaware Camp Scene



Buffalo Hunt 1

In these two scenes of a buffalo hunt but Jake did not indicate if the hunters were supposed to be Delaware Indians or Indians from another tribe.



Buffalo Hunt 2

as above



Prairie Fire



A Home in the Country



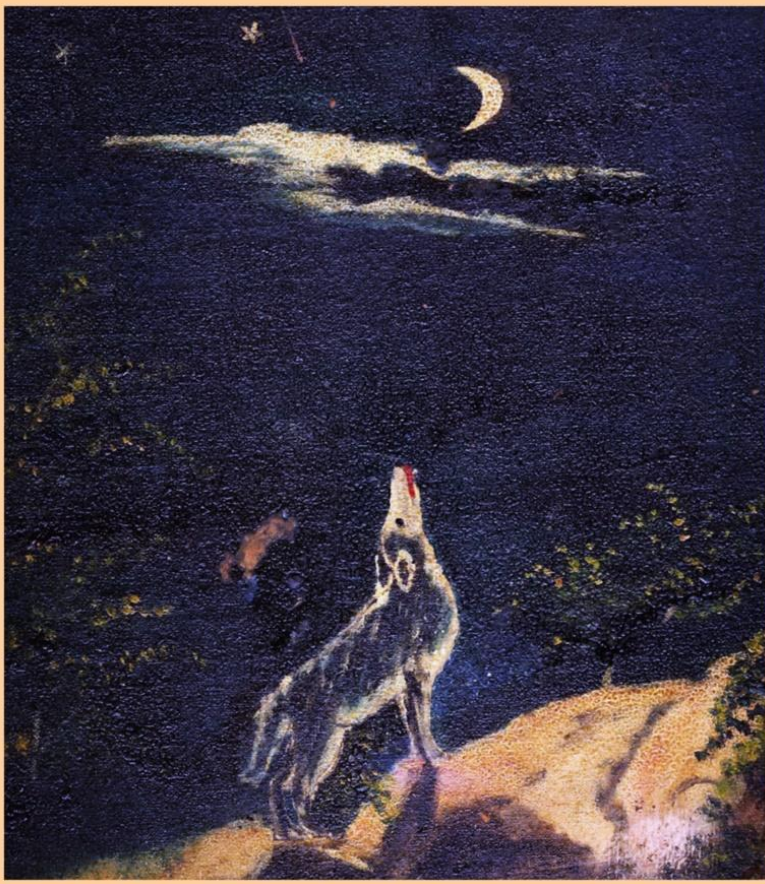
Nora Thompson Dean
(1907 – 1984)



Indian Woman with Her Baby

3.75 x 6"

Nora said that she saw this image on a billboard and she liked it so well that when she got home she drew one for herself.



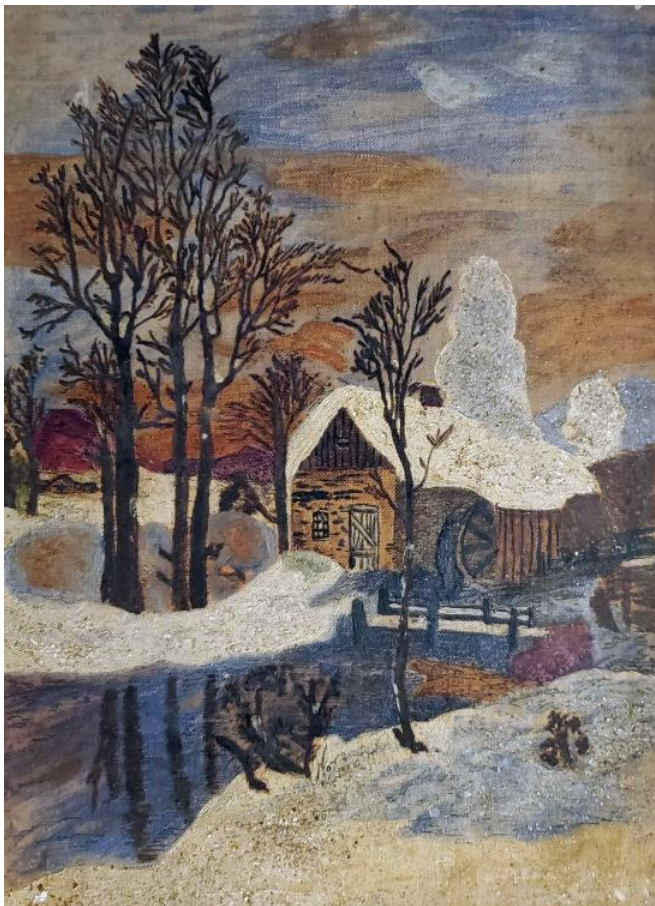
Coyote Howling at the Moon

7 x 9



Mountain Lions

10 x 12

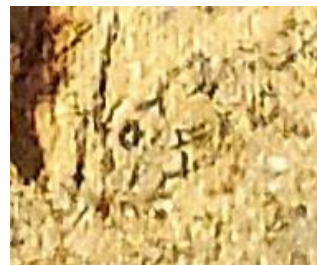


Winter Scene

10 x 14

Like Jake Parks did when he drew an illustration of a country home Nora did the same. Perhaps they were both wishing for a home like that someday.

It seems like Nora added her name but in a place not easy to find.

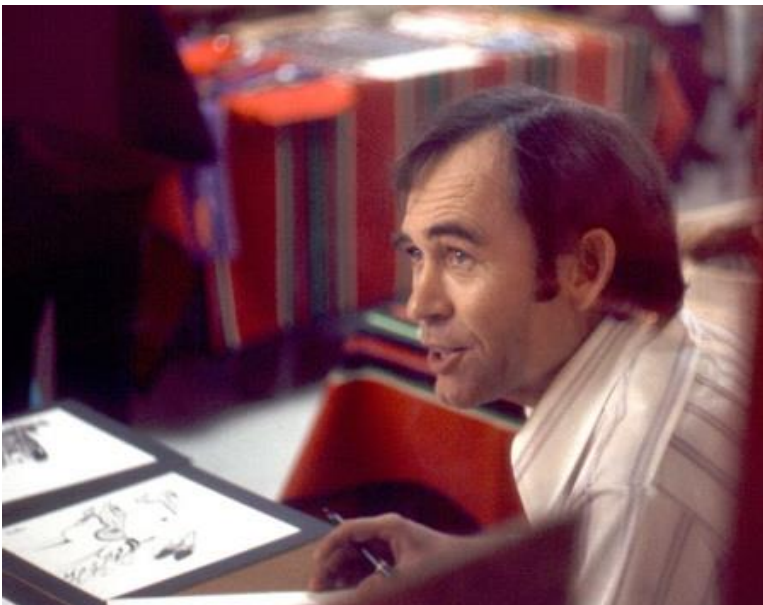




Jesus Stands Near a Tepee

11 x 13

In the lower right corner is a drawing of a small tepee. Nora might have added it because she was a member of the Native American Church.



Brice Vaughn

1937 – 1978

(Delaware)

U. S. Navy in Korea -Radio Man Seaman. or a radio operator with the military rank of E3.

In a newspaper article about the J M Davis Gun museum celebrating 8 years it states: "Brice Vaughn, Big Cabin, specializing in pen and ink drawings of the Indian West will be showing his handiwork." - June 22nd 1977.



Delaware Woman in Traditional Dress

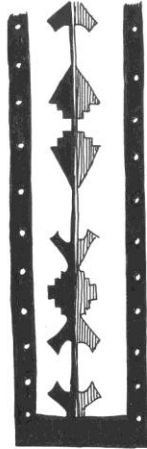
These clothing drawings were done to illustrate a magazine article on Delaware women's clothing. They were commissioned by Ty Stewart for that article but later he found that he had more photographs than he needed so he did not use these. The complete article can be found on the tribal website at this link:

<https://delawaretribe.org/wp-content/uploads/aDelWomenClo.pdf>



Delaware Woman in Traditional Dress

back view



Delaware Woman's Leggings and Moccasins

Ribbonwork Strip



Owl

This is one of Brice's pen and ink drawings, this one of a little owl.



Ruthe Blalock Jones 1939 -

Ruthe Blalock Jones parents are Joe and Lucy Parks Blalock. Her tribal name is Chulundit. Her mother was one of the last fluent speakers of the Lenape language.

At the age of 13, Jones entered her first juried art show at the Philbrook Museum of Art and received an honorable mention. She works in oil, acrylic, watercolor, pen and ink, and pencil as well as printing monotypes.

She pays acute attention to authenticity in detail of dress and the ceremonial aspects of traditional tribal life, and some of her paintings could easily be her childhood recollections.



Delaware Woman

This painting was owned by Glenn McCartlin, then Jim Rementer, and has now been donated to the Delaware Tribal Museum.



The Dice Game

1964

Ruthe Blalock Jones
(CHU-LUN-DIT)

Delaware/Shawnee/Peoria, 1939-

Gouache on art board: 10 x 16 1/2 in.



Medicine Woman

Ruthe Blalock Jones
Native American; Delaware,
Shawnee, Peoria

gouache on poster board

Overall: 23 1/8 x 19 15/16 in.

Now at Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa



Joe Baker

1946 –

Joe Baker is an artist, educator, curator and activist who has been working in the field of Native Arts for the past thirty years. He is an enrolled member of the Delaware Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma and co-founder executive director of Lenape Center in Manhattan. He serves as a board member for The Endangered Language Fund, Yale University.

Baker and Lenape Center are championing the return of ancestral seeds in the homeland through a seed rematriation project. This seed saving project, now in its second year, has done much to contribute to the cultural foodways of the Lenape diaspora. Baker graduated from the University of Tulsa with a BFA degree in Design and an MFA in painting and drawing, and completed postgraduate study, Harvard University, Graduate School of Education, MDP Program.



Spring Festival



In the Field



Dance of the Deer



Bear Dance

Compiled by
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