

**White Parker** (1887–1956) was a son of [Mah-Cheeta-Wookey](#) and [Quanah Parker](#), chief of the [Comanches](#). He married Laura E. Clark (1890-1962), a daughter of Reverend and Mrs. M. A. Clark, a former [Methodist](#) missionary to the Comanches. They had at least three children: Patty Bertha, Cynthia Ann Joy, and Milton Quanah (1914-1930).

## Missionary work

White Parker did Christian missionary work among the Comanche people. He studied for the ministry at Cook Bible School in [Phoenix, Arizona](#). After graduation, Parker joined the Methodist Conference. **The Parkers were active in the 1920s and '30s Saturday afternoon street meetings in Lawton, Oklahoma, which was led by Rev. J. Leighton Read, a European-American missionary from Colony, Oklahoma.**<sup>[1]</sup>

Parker had a varied religious background. His father was a member of and leader in the [Native American Church](#). The Parker family brought the first non-Catholic church to the state of Texas. He received his education at a Presbyterian/Reformed institution, but affiliated with the Methodists when no Reformed missionary appointment was available.

## Acting career

In 1920, Parker played a lead role in the silent film *The Daughter of Dawn*, a silent film directed by Norbert A. Myles shot in the Wichita Mountains of Southwest Oklahoma.<sup>[2]</sup> The story, played by an all-Indian cast of 300 Kiowas and Comanches, includes themes of love story, battle, dance, deceit, combat, and concludes with a happy ending.<sup>[3]</sup>

This is a historically important film in American cinema as it is the first full-length movie of an American Indian story, and that uses all American Indian actors.<sup>[4]</sup> The film was restored by the Oklahoma Historical Society and has been digitized.<sup>[5][6]</sup>

## Death and legacy

White Parker and his wife are buried in the Highland Cemetery, Lawton, [Comanche County, Oklahoma](#).

## Notes

1.

- Harper, Richard H. "[THE MISSIONARY WORK OF THE REFORMED \(DUTCH\) CHURCH IN AMERICA, IN OKLAHOMA.](#)" *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Volume 18, No. 4, December 1940. Accessed 22 March 2014.
- • "[The Daughter of Dawn \(1920\)](#)". *IMDb*. 1 October 1920. Retrieved 4 October 2015.

- • ["The Daughter of Dawn: Calendar: IU Cinema: Indiana University Bloomington"](#). *indiana.edu*. Retrieved 4 October 2015.
- • ["HugeDomains.com - Comanchemedia.com is for sale \(Comanchemedia\)"](#). *comanchemedia.com*. Retrieved 4 October 2015.
- • ["Daughter of Dawn - OK Historical Society"](#). *okhistory.org*. Retrieved 4 October 2015.
- • ["Rare, 1920 film featuring 300 Comanche and Kiowa actors to premiere in Kansas"](#). *kansas*. Retrieved 4 October 2015.