

EVER TOWARDS THE SETTING SUN THEY PUSH US:
AMERICAN INDIAN IDENTITY IN THE WRITINGS OF MARY ALICIA OWEN

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ABSTRACT

Mary Alicia Owen (1850-1935) is best known as a folklorist who studied and wrote about the culture, legends, and folkways of Missouri's African Americans and American Indians. While she is best remembered as the author of two major works of folklore and ethnography, *Olde Rabbit, the Voodoo and Other Sorcerers* (1893) and *Folk-lore of the Musquakie Indians of North America* (1904) she was also the author of several short stories and at least one novel and one play.

In her fiction Owen often portrayed American Indian people as a part of the lively ethnic melting pot that characterized her hometown of St. Joseph, Missouri in the mid nineteenth century. Yet, despite the years of contact Owen had with members of this vibrant mixed community, she ultimately resorted to many of the same stereotypical conventions that many European-Americans of the Victorian era relied on to portray native people. Many of these same stereotypes can be seen her ethnographic work as well. This thesis examines Owen's relationship with the American Indian people she studied and her use of stereotypes—most prominently the Noble Savage and the Vanishing Indian—in characterizing them.

About half of the Indians in the United States live in large cities and rural areas throughout the country. The rest of them live in about 300 federal reservations (land set for their use). Today, there are about 1,4 million Native Americans, which is believed to be more than there were when the first European explorers arrived in the New World. True or False? 1. The story of the Native Americans is one of the funniest in the history of the mankind. 2. The Indians were the original inhabitants of the American continent. 3. The Native Americans have managed to retain their identity and culture. In the US alone, it's around nine million people every year. does identity theft cost? ID theft is big business and costs billions of dollars to national economies. of identity theft are there? There are different types: using your credit card; getting a phone in your name or getting a government document, eg a driving licence, are some examples.Â Vocabulary and Listening. Listening and Reading. 1 Work in pairs and make a list of the people. you know in the class. Tell each other what you know about them. I am writing about American Indian Stories and Old Indian Legends together because I read them together. Discussions can be found here and here. As a child, Zitkala-Sa remembers, she and her playmates would beg for stories of Iktomi.Â While in her memoir Zitkala-Sa speaks of eating unleavened bread, sweet roots and herbs as well as hunted animals, in the tales food is always meat! The stories almost always centre around hunger and hunting, suggesting these to be especially dramatic features of Dakota life, while the parts of the memoir among the Dakota relate more to peaceful social activities. Zitkala-Sa's account of the missionary school she attended is extremely fragmented, and she writes about the bizarre, disturbing discipline rather than the curriculum.