John Lewis Clarke, a deaf Blackfoot artist from Montana, grew up in Glacier National Park. As a boy, he bonded with wildlife, despite losing his hearing to scarlet fever. Unable to communicate verbally, he expressed himself by crafting animals from clay and later wood. Clarke's grandfather, a West Point graduate, was integrated into the Blackfoot tribe but was tragically killed by another tribe. Clarke attended several schools for the deaf and studied wood carving at St. Francis Academy. Returning to Montana, he opened a studio, creating lifelike carvings of animals. His art gained fame, attracting collectors like John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Clarke's works were widely exhibited, and he spent most of his life carving his path to artistic acclaim until his death in 1970.