

he wished to avoid any seeming disrespect to the big chief and therefore would come at once. He gathered his people together, came in and was as much pleased with General Miles as was Geronimo.

General Miles wanted to take the two leaders on ahead with him to Bowie, thus separating them from their band. But they were still very suspicious, or had been up to that time, and it required no little diplomacy to get them to consent, which they finally did. They made the trip in one day—the rest of us taking three. The surrender of Geronimo and his band was complete!

From Bowie the Indians were sent to Florida, after a delay in Texas; and finally were removed to Alabama—for them a grimly suggestive name, for it means, "Here We Rest."

POSTSCRIPT

Lieutenant Gatewood's narrative, written before 1896, ends here.

All of the Chiricahua tribe, the loyal and peaceful as well as the recalcitrant, were sent to Florida. For a long time, the men were confined separately from their families. Their meager wealth brought from Arizona was soon dissipated, without provision for them to acquire more or to do honest labor. Used to long sustained marches across vast stretches of territory, they were cooped closely in restricted quarters without sufficient natural exercise. Their light and scanty clothing received but few additions, and they suffered from cold and attendant sickness in the damp chill of the Gulf coast winters. In that moist climate, so different from that of Arizona, they readily contracted pulmonary diseases from which in about three years a fourth of them were dead. Misfortune and tragedy fell heaviest upon the little children. If this was just retribution to some, it was injustice for many who had long been peaceful and had helped ably to bring the war to an end. It should be said that those charged with their immediate care did all for their miseries that the means provided would allow.

At length, their condition prompted one or more Congressional investigations which finally secured for them more humane living conditions, and later a removal to

Oklahoma. In 1914, some were allowed to return toward their old homes as far as the Mescalero Reservation in New Mexico.

The two faithful Scouts, Martine and Kayitah, without whose services the surrender might not have been accomplished, were sent to Florida with the men they had hunted. In 1927, after waiting forty-one years for any sort of reward or recognition for those services, they were finally granted the small pensions to which their military enlistments had long entitled them.

George Wratten died several years ago, after many years' service as interpreter for the exiled Apaches. Frank Huston, at last accounts, was still living, as were several of the old troopers who were temporary members of Gatewood's expedition.

It has required time and labor to obtain separate and independent proofs of all the principal happenings told of in this narrative of Gatewood's—a narrative at variance with many accounts of this same incident that have been published—but finally all such proofs have been assembled complete.

Our Apaches of today are submissive, law-abiding and industrious where once they ruled practically supreme by terrorism and robbery. For three hundred years and more, they defied the advance of civilization and maintained against all comers their arrogant dominance over an immense country. The surrender of that last little band under Chief Natchez (erroneously spoken of as Geronimo's band) extinguished the last flicker of effort on the part of the Apache nation to regain that proud position. Therefore, the so-called "Surrender of Geronimo" was a significant event in the history of our West.