

THE INDIAN CHIEFTAIN

Vinita, Ind. Ter.
Oct. 15, 1896
Vol. 15, No. 7
D. M. Marrs, Editor

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF JOHN JUMPER

John Jumper, ex-chief of the Seminoles, died at his residence near Wewoka, I. T., on the 21st of September, 1896, past 80 years of age. He was a large size, very dark in color and a true type of the sull-blood Seminole. He understood the English language perfectly, but would never speak it. He was in high repute in the councils of his tribe and was frequently sent to Washington in their interests. He was a nephew of the celebrated Micanopy, who was the great council chief of the nation during its long and bloody war with the whites. Osceola, Sam Jones, Tigertail, Wildcat and Alick Tustenugee were fighting chiefs of bands. Alick shot Mrs. Montgomery from her horse, scalped her beautiful hair and tore off her silk dress and jewelry, which his wifewore on her arrival in Fort Smith after their capture.

John Jumper was a boy about 13, able to shoot, and was at the Dade massacre, where Major Dade and his entire force were exterminated by the ambushed Seminoles. The burial force sent to the battle ground found the dead bodies most revoltingly mutilated, but Jumper assured the writer that these acts were done by the negroes.

Jumper fought with his people through the war until captured and removed west. Here he was converted to the Baptist faith and preached the gospel to his tribe in their language.

He was delegate among many other Seminoles that went to Florida with Major Elias Rector to influence the surrender and removal of Billy Bowlegs and his unconquered band, who were entrenched in the swamps of the everglades.

He commanded the Seminole battalion in the confederate army.

John Jumper was of a dignified and quiet disposition and was well known to many of our old citizens. The news of his death to his people will be in the eloquent words of Push-ma-ta-ha, "Like the fall of a mighty tree in the stillness of the forest." -- "W" in Elevator.