

Willie Kirk, Kickapoo

J. Jordan

all I know. They just took their horses, and maybe gun, too. Yeah. Before I got there that bad Mexican, that bad one, he come up to the reservation. He asked that Indian if he could borrow a gun--he just want to borrow it. Some of 'em they loan it. Some of 'em they give it to him. Some of 'em they didn't give it away. Some of those Indians, they kinda thought something's going on. They didn't give it to him. Sure enough, if they give it to him, they turned around and shot the Indians. They killed quite a bit. That's where they started fighting. That's where they started soldiering, that Indian, you know. They killed quite a bit--not too many, though. They killed about three old men. One woman. They burned houses up. Well, that's where those Indians started fighting Mexicans. Join army. That's cause of that war--fighting those Mexicans. Anyway, that beat 'em. They don't come out any more. I was a little fellow that time, when they was fighting. I was there, but I was a little boy. But I know. I must be, oh,, about sixteen or seventeen years old that time. Well, that's all I know.

HOW WILLIE GOT HIS NAME

(You mentioned you had a Mexican name. What was it?)

Well, my name in Mexican is "Quitero." "Waskie." Quitero Waskie. That's my Mexican name.

(How did you get that name?)

Well, one of my uncles, he give me that name. We were up in a Mexican town and they given 'em something like-- Young boys, he give 'em something, you know. Some big man in there and give us something. When he give it he say, "Say, boy, what's your name?" or something like that. So I come in and he asked me what's my name. And my uncle said, "His name's Quitero Waskie." So that's where I got that name.

(Do you have a Kickapoo name too?)

Yeah. Nanidapi. That's my Kickapoo name, my Indian name.