

Willie Kirk, Kickapoo

J. Jordan

catch 'em and they have a fight. They pretty near kill 'em all--them soldiers. I guess a few of them they left, I guess. They went back there with that handful and they told this captain: "Well, I told you--those people, they don't look for trouble, but if you want to go get trouble, you got it yourself," they told him. "You ought to turn around just like that other fellow." That other captain just turn around and didn't chase 'em. And then they got pretty near all killed. That's all I know. I heard about that.

KICKAPOO HISTORY

(How did the Kickapoos come to Oklahoma?)

Well, I don't know for sure. That's long, long story. When I hear some old people talk. Just like he talked, way off somewhere, somewhere--I don't know where--where they use to live--Indians live, Kickapoos. They move from there, come this way. Pretty soon they come to Oklahoma. I guess some where them white people been talking about Indians, I guess. They want to catch them to have a home somewhere, a place like this, now. I guess they catch them around here to have it that way. That's the way I learned. So they catch 'em around here, and they give them a piece of land here, but the people here, they're not satisfied. They're kind of afraid of it, Indian. That's what I heard. Pretty soon I guess he give up and move in there where they give him place like this. That's where they stayed in Oklahoma, I guess. That's all I know.

(How did they get down to Mexico?)

Well, I don't know but that's different now, that Indians in Mexico. I don't know about him, but I heard that some of them are from here, though. Start from here, some of 'em. But some of 'em, I guess they been staying there before, I don't know. They stayed in Mexico. But I hear that those people, some of 'em they used to be running here, then they went to Mexico. That's where they stayed over there. But before that, some of 'em been staying there before.