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Billie Byrd,
Journalist.
February 21, 1938.

Interview with Jackman Pigeon.
Hanna, Oklahoma.

I have heard my mother, Smaddie Pigeon, telling of instances as she remembered and saw happening during the flight to the North under the leadership of Opothleyahola, when she was about ten years old.

There were times, as she told, when they were overtaken by their pursuers, those serving with the Confederates, but the forces of Opothleyahola outnumbered the pursuers so that the fleeing party was able to go on at the end of the short firing.

Some women carrying children would be overtaken by Confederate soldiers and the soldiers snatched the children from the arms of the mothers and smashed their heads against the trees.

She further told of how they were once overtaken and had refuge on a hill while groups of the men had stopped along the way to check the rear attackers. At dark, as the firing kept on, the scene as seen from the hill seemed to be like

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the flicker of fireflies, with reports of guns heard and flashes here and there of the shooting.

Opothleyahola's followers were never fully checked in their travel to the North, as they always outnumbered their pursuers, but they saw many hardships along the way.

The small hillocks seen were said to be the graves of este chup-ko (tall man), a mythical being that was supposed to exist at one time or at times in the beliefs of the older Indians. Those small hillocks are still seen in some places.

Isparhechar

When Isparhechar, along with others of his followers, was taken captive he was taken to Fort Gibson by the Government men where he was to be tried for his acts. There were other followers who had not been captured still free near their homes but they were rounded up and brought together where they were kept under a large tent awaiting the results of the trial of Isparhechar. The sentence passed on Isparhechar would hold with those kept under guard as captives of Government forces. The captive camp was located along what

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was known as being near the Nuyaka town settlement and near Deep Fork.

The captured men were all chained together at night but were chained free and loose enough to where they could lie down on the pallets fixed under the tent and on the ground. The men were kept and slept under one part of the large tent while the women and children were kept in another separate part of the tent.

Their meals consisted of a soup or stew, this sort of meal being easier and quicker to prepare for the captives. Along with the soup were served crackers that were kept in boxes stacked right in the center of the tent.

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