

INKANISH, MARY

DEPOSITION.

#8707

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DEPOSITION OF MARY INKANISH, CADDO INDIAN

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The following deposition was taken from the stenographic notes of a trial held at Anadarko Oklahoma on the 24th day of September A. D. 1927, in the Court of Claims of the United States.

Said case is styled as follows: The Wichita and Affiliated Bands of Indians In Oklahoma, The Towaconies, Wacos, Keechis, Ionies, And The Delaware Band Of The Wichita Tribe And The Individual Members Of Said Wichita And Affiliated Bands of Indians, Petitioners, vs. The United States Of America, Defendant.

The Petition alleges that the Wichita Country from time immemorial lay in the present State of Oklahoma, west of the Cross Timbers, extending west as far as about 6 miles west of the Antelope Hills on the Canadian River, and lay between the Canadian River on the north and the Red River on the south.

Said deposition was not taken for any historical value of the trial, but for the historical value of the depositions of these older Indians who have passed away in the last 10 years, and who have left the history of lives of themselves and their people in the depositions given at said trial.

Claimant's counsel, Charles H. Marillat

Intervenors counsel, C. Ross Hume.

Defendants counsel, Dan M. Jackson.

Chester A. Lamb,
Interviewer.

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Deposition of Mary Inkanish, for intervenors taken at Anadarko, Okla., on the 24th day of September, A. D. 1927.

Mary Inkanish, is called as a witness for the intervenors and being first duly sworn, Willie Wilson having been sworn as interpreter, testifies as follows:

By Mr. Hume:

Q. How old are you?

A. I don't know.

Q. Do you know where you were born?

A. Louisiana.

Q. What tribe do you belong to?

A. Caddo.

Q. Where did you go from Louisiana?

A. When I first realized anything I was over in Mexico.

Q. Did you later come where the Texas Reserve Indians were living in Texas?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Were you married at that time?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you come to this country with the Texas Reserve Indians?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who brought them up here?

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A. I don't know. I knew the agent all right enough, but I can't pronounce. It might have been Neighbors.

Q. Were there some soldiers?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. When they came here who did they find here?

A. I never noticed any Indians here at the time they brought these Indians here at this place.

Q. Do you remember about the Civil War?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What did these Indians do during that time?

A. The people left this part of the country during the Civil War, and went west, but then they returned shortly afterwards after things were settled.

Q. Did they come back to this same country after the war?

A. Yes, sir; they returned and came back here, but my party went on over into Kansas.

Q. Did you come back later after the war?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. When they came back here what tribes were here--Delawares, Caddos, Wacos, Keechis, and Towaconies here after the war when you came back?

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A. After we had returned from Kansas and settled in the part of the country, only Wichitas, Caddos, and Delawares.

Q. Did any other tribes come afterwards?

A. After they had all settled here these plains Indians were brought in here.

Q. Did the Indians that were in here, did the Government have any council with them before they brought these plains Indians in here?

A. I don't remember of any council being held here, but I do remember of them having a council up in Kansas, but, of course, I don't know what it was about.

Q. Now, when these Indians first came from Texas, which side of the Washita did they settle on, the north side or the south side?

A. After the people were brought out of Texas into this country and settled here the Caddos located along the bank of the Washita and the Delawares were with the Caddos,

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and the Wichitas located between Washita and Sugar Creek, down in that bottom.

Q. After the Comanches and Kiowas came where did these Indians all go, north of the river, the Caddos, Wichitas, and Delawares?

A. Yes, sir; when these people brought these plains Indians in here the people were notified to move on the north side of the river.

Q. Did any of these Comanches and Wichitas and Delawares act as scouts for the Government then, along about that time?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know what they did to help the Government?

A. No, sir; I don't know what their object was.

Q. Ever since these Indians left here have the Caddos and Wichitas and Delawares all lived on this reservation?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know whether any of the Wichitas and Caddos and Delawares became soldiers in the Civil War after they went up to Kansas?

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A. No, sir.

By Mr. Merillat:

Q. You spoke of when the Civil War broke out some Indians went west? What Indians were they that went west when the Civil War broke out?

A. Part of the Caddos, and my bunch went on to Kansas.

Q. Another bunch of Caddos went west?

Q. Who did they go west with?

A. When the Caddo bunch went west during the Civil War there was some Wichitas along with the Caddos, but after they had gotten so far they decided they would come back.

Doctor Sterns overtook the bunch and persuaded them to come back into this country.

Q. Do you know where the Tonkawas and Pene-takas went?

A. I couldn't tell as to where the Tonkawas went during that time.

Q. And about the Pene-takas?

A. I don't know where these different bands, but all I remembered was my own safety.

By Mr. Jackson:

Q. Do you remember anything about Louisiana?

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A. I was informed that I was born in Louisiana, and later, after I became so I could realize anything, I was in Mexico, and after the band had come back into this other place, oftentimes they would go down to Louisiana to see a place where they had been.

Q. Have you ever returned to Louisiana since you left there to go to Mexico?

A. I went a time or two, with a hunting expedition around pretty close to where the people were moved out of, but not going over to stay or anything like that, but on a hunting expedition.

Q. Did you see a big lake there where you went on ^a hunting expedition?

A. No, sir; I heard there was a big lake down there some place.

Q. Is the word "Soldat" a Caddo word?

- A. I don't know.

Q. How old were you at your first recollection in Mexico?

A. I don't know how old I was but I could realize things.

A. Did you see other Indian tribes in Mexico besides your

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own people?

A. I seen several Indians down in Mexico, but I don't know what they were.

Q. Were you able to talk to them?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you know the names of the tribes of Indians whom you saw in Mexico?

A. No, sir; I hadn't seen but one, and never had a chance to know the kind of Indians they were.

Q. Have you any idea how many years you lived in Mexico?

A. I don't know.

Q. What kind of a country was it you lived in ⁱⁿ Mexico?

A. As far as I can remember, I always thought that Mexico was pretty good country.

Q. Was there lots of water and trees where you lived in Mexico?

A. There's streams of water, plenty of water down there, and there's quite a bit of this mesquite.

Q. Were there any pine trees?

A. I never notice any pine trees. There was maybe some

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down there. I saw plenty of elm.

Q. Did you have to cross a large stream when you came back from Mexico?

A. There's one stream that we crossed on the way back that's supposed to be the boundary line between Mexico and this country. That stream is called Agua Colorado.

Q. Were the horses able to wade that stream or did they swim it?

A. Waded across.

Q. Did you come back to a village and camp in Texas, from Mexico?

A. We left Mexico and came over into Texas. The people came on over to where the rest of the Caddos were near the neighborhood of Fort Arbuckle.

Q. Do you know where the Waco village is?

A. I don't know where the Waco village is.

Q. When you came from Mexico did you cross the water called the Rio Bravo?

A. I might have crossed that branch. I don't know

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the names of the streams I would cross. I crossed several streams.

Q. Do you remember a stream that had a box canyon?

A. No, sir; I don't remember crossing such a stream.

Q. Do you know Billie Wilton?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know when he was born?

A. No, sir.

Q. Is he older or younger than you?

A. I couldn't testify as to who was the oldest, but when I first seen Billy they were both in Mexico.

Q. Did you remember hearing the people talking about the stars falling?

A. I just heard there was such an occurrence.

Q. You were born after that?

A. I don't remember, but I have heard others talking about it.

Q. Have you any children?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where did you live when your first child was born?

A. Here. I brought my first child after I moved here.

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All this time I remained single and never wanted to marry until the people got settled right here.

Q. How old is your youngest child?

(Her daughter spoke up: " I am supposed to be 45 years old)

Q. How many children have you?

A. Nine children.

By Mr. Merillat:

Q. Where did the Quapaws live, if you know?

A. I don't know anything about the Quapaws until the present time, of course. At that time I hadn't heard anything.

(Excused)