

SMITH, HARRY

INTERVIEW

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## AYDELOTTE

An interview of Harry Smith, age 70,  
Kickapoo Tribe, Harrah, Okla.

Billie Byrd, Interviewer  
Indian-Pioneer History  
10-26-37

The Aydelotte Avenue in Shawnee was named after a man who was probably the first settler around the present Shawnee, Oklahoma. This man had come from Texas probably about 1885 although I cannot name the exact location. His small store which he first established gradually increased. Jim Aydelotte, after he established his store, became friendly with the Indians of the Shawnee tribe and he had good trade from them.

It was at that time and along the north banks of the North Canadian river at a distance of a quarter of a mile, that the Shawnee Indians had a settlement and was also intermixed with the Kickapoo tribe. Their camp was made all along the river as there were good hunting in the river bottom lands and nearby woodlands. The river was a source of plenty fish. The camp consisted of the usual tee pee style of the western Indian tribes.

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We heard rumors of uprisings from the Creek country brought by some Creeks who had fled their homes and had come to our settlement. These Creeks stayed at our settlement for a time until the uprisings had quieted down. (Ispahecha uprisings)

We Kickapoos never seem to know how to change our ways. My people are lazy, too large and fat. Then, mighty few of them do any farming. Still, there are a few of the older Indians who still wear their hair in long braids--by this, I mean the older Indian men.

I still don't know how it is that some of our tribe is living in Mexico and some are scattered in Kansas. My father, Jim Smith, lives in Mexico with some of the Kickapoos there.

The Kickapoos are very fond of eating the peyote. In this custom they say they are talking to God, but I don't know nothing about it. I don't like to tell anything unless I know for myself what I am telling, so I never tell anything that I just hear unless I know it to be a fact and true.