

SPYBUCK, BILLY

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Chester A. Lamb, Interviewer
 Indian-Pioneer History
 September, 1937

Deposition of Billy Spybuck
 Delaware Indian
 Taken September 24, 1927

Deposition of Billy Spybuck, Delaware Indian, for claimant, (Wichitas) taken at Anadarko, Oklahoma, on the 24th day of September A.D., 1927.

This case is pending in the United States Court of Claims: In this case the Wichitas are claiming they were the original occupants of the country west of the Cross Timbers, in the Great Plains, extending north--south from the Canadian River to the Red River, including its valleys.

Charles H. Merillat, counsel for claimant (Wichitas)

C. Ross Hume, counsel for intervenor (Caddos)

Dan M. Jackson, counsel for Defendant (U. S.

Government).

Deposition of Billy Spybuck, for claimant, taken at Anadarko, Oklahoma, on the 24th day of September, A.D. 1927.

Claimants counsel, Charles H. Merillat; intervenor's counsel, C. Ross Hume; defendant's counsel, Dan H. Jackson.

Belo Ellis, being sworn as interpreter, and Billy Spybuck, called as a witness on behalf of the petitioners,

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and, having been first duly sworn, testifies as follows:

Direct examination by Mr. Merillat:

Q. How old are you?

A. Sixty-four.

Q. Where were you born?

A. Down here on Red River.

Q. Which side of Red River?

A. I don't know which side, but it is on Red River down there.

Q. Was it west of Anadarko?

A. South of here.

Q. Who was your father?

A. He has a name like I have, Billy Spybuck.

Q. Who was your grandpa?

A. Jim Ned.

Q. Did you ever go out hunting with your grandfather?

A. No, sir; I was small yet at that time.

Q. Did your father ever show you any part of the line where any of the lines of the Wichitas and affiliated tribes was?

A. Only one line that he showed me out west here, the Antelope Hills.

Q. I want you to say what occurred at that time, who was along, and what was done and what was said?

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A. There was five of us at that time.

Q. Who were they?

A. My uncle, my grandpa's brother; I believe they said his name was Jim Ned, too. I couldn't remember the other fellows' names.

Q. Was Longhorn there?

A. Yes sir; Longhorn.

Q. What were they doing at that time?

A. We went out there hunting and trapping bears.

Q. Longhorn and your grandpa and some others with you were hunting and trapping?

A. Yes sir.

Q. What did they tell you about the line at that time?

A. We were camping over across the creek, river, or whatever it was. My grandpa and Longhorn said to me: "I'm going to show you where the line is." He says: "It's right here, the bank of the river."

Q. What did they call it?

A. The only way I can tell you, Antelope Hills .

Q. Did you ever hear any of the old people talk about where the line was Wichita and affiliated bands country?

A. No sir.

Q. Did they tell you where the line ran from Antelope Hills?

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A. That's the only one they told me, was six miles west of that Antelope Hills.

Q. Did you say that was the corner of the line of the Wichitas and Delawares?

A. Yes sir.

Q. What do you say as to how the line ran south from there?

A. I couldn't say.

Q. Are the Wichitas and Delawares affiliated?

A. Yes sir.

Q. How did they come to be affiliated?

A. They have been affiliated a long time. I heard they made a treaty over at the Wichita Mountains some years ago and made a treaty with the Wichitas the Delawares.

Examination by Mr. Hume:

Q. Have the Caddos lived here with the Wichitas and Delawares all the time that you can remember?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Did the different tribes have different villages near each other?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Can you remember what happened about the time of the Civil War?

A. No sir; I can't say.

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Q. Was there an Indian Agent here at Anadarko when you first remember?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Do you remember what his name was?

A. No sir; I don't remember his name.

Q. Can you remember when Jonathan Richards was Indian Agent here?

A. No sir; I don't remember their names.

Q. When you would send delegations to Washington would the Delawares and Wichitas and Caddo go?

A. Yes sir; they all would go.

Q. When they had the 1891 treaty did Delawares and Wichitas and Caddos all sign that treaty?

A. I don't know whether they did, but I heard about it.

I wasn't present. I was around there.

Q. When they were having the hearings would they have interpreters to interpret for the Wichitas and one for the Delawares and one for the Caddos?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Did members of the Wichitas and Delawares and the Caddos and these other bands all get allotments in the reservation?

A. Yes sir.

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Q. Were the Wichitas, Towaconies, Wacos, Keechis, Delawares, and Caddos were they all called the Wichita and affiliated bands?

A. I couldn't say about the treaty, but they all were on the roll at the agency.

Q. Were all these tribes under one agency here?

A. Yes sir.

Q. When they were holding councils here would members of the Wichita and Delawares and Caddos and Keechis and Wacos all take part in these councils?

A. They used to a long time ago when they used to have councils out in the brush, but not these last few years.

Q. Has it just been four years that they haven't been having councils together?

A. A few years.

Q. Where do you remember where the Caddos first had their village?

A. I couldn't tell you exactly where. They used to have villages over south.

Q. Where is the first one that you saw?

A. The first village of Caddos was right over here, about three or four miles this side of Delaware Creek.

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By Mr. Merillat:

Q. Why don't the Wichitas and Delawares and the Caddos hold Councils together now?

A. I don't know that. It's up to the Caddos; they ought to know the reason why they don't come to our councils. We know our part.

Cross examination by Mr. Jackson:

Q. How old were you when you went to Antelope Hills?

A. A young man.

Q. About how old?

A. Along about over 20.

Q. Which side of the Canadian River is the Antelope Hills on?

A. On the south side of the river.

Q. How does the river run there; what kind of a line, straight or crooked?

A. Six miles west of that Antelope Hills is where the line is.

Q. How does the river run north of the Antelope Hills?

What kind of a line, straight or crooked line?

A. I think it was crooked.

Q. Was anything at the line west of Antelope Hills that your

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grandpa showed you to mark the spot?

A. There was a hill there, a bank, and kind of a lot of sand.

Q. Did your grandfather tell you that was where the one hundredth meridian crossed the river?

A. I couldn't say, because I never went to school, and I couldn't say about that, whether it was the one-hundredth meridian or not.

Q. Any springs in Antelope Hills?

A. There was some springs down there, right down below.

Q. On the bank of the river?

A. Just a little west from the river.

Q. In a woods?

A. A little grove of elm trees.

Q. Were there any trees up on top of Antelope Peak?

A. If you want to see I'll take you over tomorrow. I know the place.

Q. Are there lots of mountains there at Antelope Hills, or just one big peak?

A. Just one.

Q. Is it a round mountain or is it a jagged?

A. It's kind of rough. Can't hardly get up there unless you go around it a certain way to get up there. That's the way I

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seen it.

Q. Were there many antelopes there when you were over there hunting?

A. Yes sir; if you want to see I will take you up there.

Redirect examination by Mr. Merillat.

Q. Have you got any old papers?

A. No sir.