

TANYON, NINA

INTERVIEW

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INTERVIEWER OTIS HUME
Indian-Pioneer History S-149
July 20, 1937.

INTERVIEW WITH NINA TANYON
Route 2, Seminole, Oklahoma

Nina Tanyon, a Seminole Indian, was born in the Seminole Nation but his father, Maxie Tanyon, was born in Mexico.

Nina Tanyon now lives seven miles northeast of Seminole, close to the Tallahassee Indian Church.

In the year 1849, an Indian they called Wildcat, with a band of Seminole Indians numbering about two hundred, decided to find a better hunting ground.

They started out west with their families going a foot and horseback. They went on out west through west Texas, then turned south across Texas to Mexico. On arriving there, the Mexican government was having trouble with a band of wild Indians and was at war with them so the Mexican government talked Wildcat and his followers into helping them fight the wild Indians.

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After the war was over, the government told Wildcat and his men to go and stake all the land they wanted as payment for helping the Mexicans fight.

The Indians started out to stake their claims and began walking around what they wanted. They walked in a big circle, not knowing how much land they were taking. This the Mexican government gave them through a treaty with them for their service and help in conquering the wild tribe.

There were all kinds of wild game there for them to hunt for food and they were happy for a while for they had built them houses and churches.

Several years later they decided to come back to the Seminole Nation and about the time they got back, the Civil war broke out and they joined up with the Northern Army.

This band of Indians never did return to live on their land in Mexico but the knowledge of the treaty and ^{of} the land grant lived on among the Seminole tribe and in later

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years several trips have been made to Mexico by some of the leading men of the tribe.

About two months ago the Seminoles decided to send a delegation of some of their leaders to Mexico to plead with the President of Mexico to let them reclaim their land. They sent four men there, three of them being John Morgan, Peter Jiller, and John Tiger. On arriving there, they found that the land was inhabited by a band of negroes, who called themselves Seminoles.

The Mexican government, not wanting to move the negroes, offered to give the Seminoles another tract of land, and the delegation was to report the terms of the treaty today, July 20, at the Tallahassee church, about seven miles northeast of Seminole; but the members failed to show up, and the meeting was postponed until a later date.