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BLACKBIRD DEPOSITION.

18700

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DEPOSITION OF BLACKBIRD.

8769

"DEPOSITION OF BLACKBIRD"

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 the lives of themselves and their people in the depositions given at said trial.

DEPOSITION OF BLACKBIRD? WICHITA INDIAN AND GOVERNMENT SCOUT? TAKEN AT ANADARKO OKLAHOMA SEPTEMBER 24th 1927. BLACKBIRD WHILE ACTING AS A GOVERNMENT SCOUT CAPTURED LONE WOLF NOTORIOUS KIOWA CHIEF.

Claimant's counsel, Charles H. Merillat.
Intervenor's counsel, C. Ross Hume.
Defendant counsel, Dan M. Jackson.

Chester A. Lamb,
Indian Pioneer History, S-149
Interviewer.

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Deposition of Blackbird, for Claimant, taken at Anadarko, Oklahoma on the 24th day of September, A. D. 1927.

Claimant's counsel, Charles H. Merillat; intervenors counsel C. Ross Hume; defendant's counsel Dan M. Jackson.

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Albert Lamar, sworn as an interpreter, and Blackbird, called as a witness on behalf of the petitioners, being first duly sworn, testifies as follows:

Direct examination by Mr. Merillat:

Q. You a full-blood member of what tribe?

A. Wichita.

Q. Where were you born?

A. Fort Belknap, Texas.

Q. Do you remember coming to Oklahoma?

A. I don't remember. I was quite a young kid before we moved.

Q. What bands or tribes were living in Texas when you were born?

A. Of course I was a young chap, just a young lad, and couldn't understand everything what was going on, but, to my personal knowledge, which the people told me, there was Towaconies, Wacos, Keechi, and several other tribes of Indians, but I don't remember all the Indians that were located down in that part of Texas.

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Q. Were the Wichitas then living in Texas?

A. There was a few living there, villaging around in Texas in bands like Towaconies and Wacos.

Q. Where were the Wichitas as a whole living; where did most of them live?

A. I couldn't do anywhere else, but name right where they started from, the Wichita Mountains, and here they live all these years.

Q. Were the Wichitas and other bands living in Oklahoma when you were born, from what people told you?

A. Wichitas have always been roaming around here, living here nearly all their lives, except a few little bands that were scattered.

Q. Who did you learn things about the Wichitas from?

A. My grandfather had mentioned about this country around here after I grew up.

Q. What did your grandfather tell you as to what was Wichita and affiliated bands country?

A. Of course my grandfather told me this area of land is a pretty good-sized piece of land that we have got

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for our people, and it takes in quite an area of land from way down here west of the mountains--

Q. What mountains?

A. The Wichita Mountains. There's a range of hills west of the mountains; I don't know just how far it is. There's a strip of land there that takes in that scope of land there all through that Hide village, the one that was described the other day.

Q. Where was that?

A. Hide Village is on the south side of the village down below, close to Henryetta, close to Wichita Falls.

Q. On the northwest how far did the line run?

A. West of Antelope Hills, right at the basin of the foot-hills of Antelope, but it's scope of range down there; I don't know just how far it is.

Q. Have you ever been there?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. When?

A. I have been there, but I couldn't tell you exactly

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how many years. I have no way of tellin. what year it was I went up there and I know I was up there, that was all.

Q. What were you doing up there?

A. On a hunting trip.

Q. Did you go on more than one hunting trip up there?

A. Quite a number of trips I have made up there on my hunting trips up there.

Q. Who was with you?

A. My own brother.

Q. Did you have any talks when you were up there as to whether you were still in Wichita country?

A. It's true, no doubt, but if a man is with his own brother, would say something about the landmark, to the fact about Wichita land.

Q. Where was the boundary line on the north?

A. I went as far as north by Wichita Kansas, and also along the Salt Fork, on hunting trips, but the line, I was starting to say, is that way out here, west.

Q. How far does your land go north?

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A. We have boundary there on the Canadian and Cross Timbers.

Q. How far does your land go east?

A. Cross Timbers.

Q. On the south how far does the land run?

A. The stream south, as far as the Waco, where the Waco stands, where the hunting trips were.

Q. Did any of the old Indians tell you where old Wichita villages had been.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Tell where some of these old Wichita villages were?

A. I'm going to start, coming down the stream of the Red River, in locating these villages. There's one down here, the first Kiddy-ish-kish, close to, below Ryan.

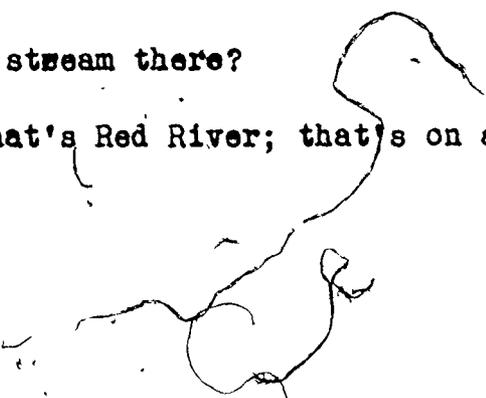
Q. How near to Cross Timbers?

A. I have no idea how many miles or how far away they were.

I couldn't say.

Q. Was there a stream there?

A. Yes, sir; that's Red River; that's on a stream that's close.



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Q. How near to Cross Timbers?

A. I have no idea how many miles or how far away they were. I couldn't say.

Q. Was there a stream there?

A. Yes, sir; that's Red River; that's on a stream that's close.

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Q. Tell where some more of these old villages are.

A. They had another village over there they called Naw-di-ah-kiddy-aush, and there was a village looked like a stream of water runs in the Brazos on the other side of Red River.

Q. Name some more.

A. I know one was over here west of the mountains. They called that Green Land.

Q. Where is that?

A. West of the mountains there. It's called the Green Land.

Q. Name where some more are.

A. There was another village right here at Mount Scott.

Q. Name any more?

A. There's another one on the west side of the North Fork of the north Red River called Kith-kaw-kah-tuk.

Q. Any more?

A. Right on the other side of this last village I named another tillage. I don't know just exactly how far it was. They used to call it Wis-kaw-dah-haws.

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Q. Any other village?

A. The last one I know of is the only one that was by Antelope Hills.

Q. Which one was by Antelope Hills that you have been speaking about?

A. It's a little northwest of Antelope Hills where the Indians had all been together. There was quite a big village, but can't say what Indians it was that was camping together.

Q. Was it a Wichita Village?

A. Wichita alone.

Q. Did you see these villages that you have been locating?

A. Yes, sir; I saw them myself, because it is the old remains of the old Indian villages.

Q. Were any people living in these villages or sites of villages when you saw them?

A. The only way I could realize it was Wichita villages was because it was old stuff that had been used by these people that was laying there and also by the forks of the

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of the grass houses.

Q. Where were some of the villages where the Wichitas were actually living when you saw the villages?

A. The only place I could say that I saw the Wichitas living in the village that they use to live was down here at Rush Springs, and also down in Waco.

Q. And how about Fort Sill?

A. Yes, sir; that's true; down there was another village at right, where Fort Sill stands to-day.

Q. How about Medicine Bluff?

A. That's it at Mount Scott, this Medicine Bluff.

Q. Did you ever work for the United States?

A. Yes, sir; a little.

Q. When?

A. It must have been somewhere about time these Wichitas got to be scouts for the United States Army, but I had enlisted a little afterwards and followed them after they went to work.

Q. What did you do?

A. I was a scout.

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Q. Were you scouting for the Indians?

A. The Indians.

Q. What Indians?

A. There was two special Indians that wouldn't obey that we were looking for; that was some hostile Indians, the Comanches and the Kiowas.

Q. Do you know the name of any of these hostile Indians you were looking for?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What were their names?

A. Lone Wolf.

Q. Did you locate these hostile Indians?

A. I got there a little after they had been captured.

Q. Who captured them?

A. I don't know personally who the men were, but it was a commanding officer that was in charge of these scouts that captured him.

Q. Were there soldiers there too?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What did they do with these hostile Indians?

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A. It is a rule or customary when a man is out on duty to work for the Government as a scout to capture his enemies, is to deliver them to the post which we were authorized to deliver them to the post at Fort Sill. Of course I wasn't in it, but I was with the soldiers, and they had appointed me to deliver the horses back and while the Government soldiers drove the Kiowas and Comanches to Fort Sill.

Q. Did you capture any Indians yourself?

A. Yes, sir, I captured Lone Wolf. Of course he was, they say he was fierce and everything, but I captured him.

Q. Did Lone Wolf fight you?

A. He never shot at me or never said anything to me, but when he was captured he had a chill or something; he was shivering from the head to foot.

Q. Did he have his gun and point it at you?

A. No, sir; he never pointed his gun at me, but he had the gun on his shoulder.

Q. Did you point your gun at Lone Wolf?

A. No, sir; Of course I thought it was my duty to capture him because I was working for the Government, and it didn't

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matter whether I died on the prairie or where else, but he never took a shot at me or anything.

Q. What did you do with Lone Wolf after you got him?

A. Afterwards; I had told a bunch of soldiers or Indians, and a row started over Lone Wolf, he told me, "My son, I am going to quit. I have laid down my weapons and am going to Fort Sill."

Q. Where were these hostile Indians when you captured them?

A. I found him on the other side of Fort Cobb, somewhere, Mountain View or somewhere right at the basin of some river there, I guess.

Q. Wasn't farther west than where these other old Wichita villages were?

A. It is quite a ways. I don't know exactly how many miles it is. It is west out here, I don't know just exactly how many miles it is.

Q. You saw some old Wichita villages. I want to know whether it is farther west than this old village that you saw?

A. It's away on this side of the old villages.

Q. How old are you?

A. Ninety (90) years old.

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Q. Had these hostile Indians ever lived in the Wichita land before you captured them?

A. No sir.

Q. After they were brought to Fort Sill were they given land in the Wichita-country?

A. I don't know personally myself; but I don't understand English at that time; but when they told me at Fort Sill the Government of the United States had give the Kiowas and Comanches to be stationed at Fort Sill as prisoners of war until further orders.

Q. And later on did they give them land in the Wichita country?

A. No sir; they give them land afterwards, but I don't know whether they got any consent from these other people or not.

Q. Did the Wichitas give consent?

A. NO, sir.

Q. Were there any Apaches with these Kiowas and Comanches?

A. Yes sir.

Q. How did the Cheyennes and Arapahoes get here?

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A. I don't know my self. I don't know how to express it. I think the it is the Government's fault that delivered the Cheyennes and Arapahoes down here. I don't know anything about that.

Q. When you were a young man what Indians lived east of the Wichita lands?

A. Of course it isn't very close, but the Indians that was living in that eastern boundary line was the Seminoles and Chickasaws and the Choctaws. They were not close.

Q. Were there any Quapaws living here when you were a young man?

A. None at all. All I heard, I knew the Quapaws were away out east somewhere.

Q. Were these Kiowas and Comanches Indians who fought and raided the Wichitas before they were captured?

A. Yes sir; they make a raid once, but I wasn't present. It has been quite a while ago--before my time.

Examination by Mr. Hume:

Q. Did you live here before these Indians came from Texas up here with Major Neighbors--these Texas Indians came up here?

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A. Yes, sir.

Q. Were there some Wichitas living here before those Indians came?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Were there some Delawares?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Were there some Caddos living here before?

A. I never seen no Caddos here, but I had seen them on the east side somewhere out where they call a stone fence, on the other side.

Q. Was that north of Red River?

A. On the north side of the bank of Red River.

Q. Did some Wichitas and Wacos and Towaconies come from Texas then?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Were there some Delawares and Caddos, too, that came?

A. I don't know nothing about that.

Q. Where were the Indians that came--where were they all located?

A. Yes sir; they put the Texas Reserve Indians together, and the Wichitas were living here then.

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Q. Were any of the Texas Reserve Indians here then?

A. I don't know nothing about the Caddos, but I know the Delawares were with them.

Q. How long was it after these Texas Reserve Indians came before the Civil War?

A. Before the Civil War?

Q. Yes.

A. Shortly after they came back from Texas.

Q. Where did these Indians who were located here go before the Civil War? Did they go up into Kansas?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. After the war did they come back to this same country that they had left?

A. Yes sir.

Q. When they came back were there Wichitas, Caddos, Delawares, Keechis, Wacos, Towaconies living here?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did all these tribes remain here from that time to this?

A. Yes, sir.

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Q. When they were out scouting that time were there some Wichita scouts, and Caddo Scouts that went with the Delaware scouts.

A. Of course I knew about the Wichitas, but I don't know anything about the Caddos being scouts, with them on scouting trips.

Q. Did all these tribes take part in the Jerome treaty in 1891?

By Mr. Merillat: We will concede that.

Q. When all these Indians when they would send delegations to Washington would there be members of the Caddo, Delaware and Wichita Tribes go to Washington?

A. Since I have been here I don't remember ever sending delegation of Wichitas, Caddos, and Delawares that ever accomplished anything to send a delegation up there, until right now this thing is going on.

Q. Were the Wichitas, Delawares, and Caddos, Wacos, Keechies, Towaconies known as Wichitas and affiliated bands?

A. I don't know about these other people, but from my own

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I saw the Towaconies, Wacos, Keechis, Wichitas, and Dela-
wares have been friends, recognized as members of the tribe.

Cross-examination by Mr. Jackson:

Q. Have you ever been to the Waco village?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where is it located?

A. It's easy for white man to understand where Waco located,
but Waco is located in Texas.

Q. Is it on a river?

A. Yes, sir; there's a spring, also a river, and in that
spring is all kind of Indians there getting water.

Q. On which side of the river was the Indian village?

A. On the south side of the bank of the Brazos River, at
the Bowl-of-Salt-Water, that's the place, it's on the south
side of the river, and there's a spring where that Waco
village is located.

Q. Was there a fork of the river at the village?

A. There's a fork of the river down below Waco, but the
salt creek is north of Waco.

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Q. Do you know where the Towaconie is?

A. The Towaconie Creek is away on this side a little ways.

Q. Is the Towaconie Creek on this side, that it runs into the river this side or the other side of the village?

A. It is quite awhile ago since I have been there, but the Towaconie Creek runs down quite a ways down there; I don't where it forks into.

Q. Do you know of a river that runs into the Waco Creek that is called the Bosque?

A. That's the salt creek.

Q. Do you know where the Twin Mountains are?

A. I think it is on the west side of Waco City, but I don't know how far it is. It is not the Twin Mountains.

Knows only one that's called Lovers Leap.

How far is Waco Village from Henryetta?

Mr. Merilat: Objected to on the grounds that the witness doesn't know the name of Henryetta, nor do I know whether Henryetta was established at that time.

Q. When was the first time that you heard Delaware Creek

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Q. Do you know where the Towaconie is?

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Q. How far is Waco village from Henryetta?

Mr. Merillat: Objected to on the grounds that the witness doesn't know the name of Henryetta, nor do I know whether Henryetta, was established at that time.

Q. When was the first time that you heard Delaware Creek

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called by its English name?

A. I don't know.

Q. When was the first time that you heard the Wichita Mountains called the Wichitas?

A. I have no idea how long it has been, but my ancestors has been back as far as I remember, has been calling it the Wichita Mountains.

Q. Did they call the Delaware Creek the Delaware Creek when you first came here from Texas?

A. No sir; I don't have an idea.

(Excused)

Deposition of Blackbird, recalled for Claimant.

Direct examination by Mr. Merillat:

Q. Do you know anything of the killing of the Tonkawas?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What do you know about it?

A. It was all over the fault of the Shawnees.

Q. Did you take part in that battle?

A. No sir.

(excused)