

LEONARD, OSCAR

DEPOSITION.

#8708

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The following deposition was taken from a transcription of the stenographic notes of a trial held at Anadarko, Oklahoma.

Field Worker - Chester A. Lamb
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149
September 24, 1937.

DEPOSITION OF OSCAR LEONARD A WICHITA INDIAN TAKEN AT ANADARKO, OKLAHOMA ON THE 24th DAY OF SEPTEMBER A. D. 1927.

THE FOLLOWING DEPOSITION WAS TAKEN FROM A TRANSCRIPTION OF THE STENOGRAPHIC NOTES OF A TRIAL HELD AT ANADARKO, OKLAHOMA.

Said case is styled as follows: THE WICHITA AND AFFILIATED BANDS OF INDIANS IN OKLAHOMA, THE TOWACONIES, WACOC, 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 8 miles west of the Antelope Hills on 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.

Claimants counsel, Charles H. Merillat
Intervenor's counsel, C. Ross Hume
Defendants counsel, Dan M. Jackson

Deposition of Oscar Leonard, for claimant, taken at Anadarko, on the 24th day of September A. D. 1927.

Oscar Leonard called as a witness for the petitioners, and, having been first duly sworn, testifies as follows.

By Mr. Merillat:

Q. You are a full-blood?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Of what tribe?

A. Keechi and Waco.

Q. You were born where?

A. Sugar Creek. (north of Anadarko)

Q. Your father and mother died before you were full grown?

A. No, Sir; my father died when I was about 13 or 14 years old.

Q. Your mother died?

A. I was about 20.

Q. Were any of your grandparents then living?

A. Grandma was then living.

Q. What was her name?

A. Sowillah.

Q. Where was your grandmother born?

A. Some place in Waco Texas.

Q. Where was your grandfather born?

A. Red River.

Q. Did you ever talk to your Grandma and to old Indians as to where the Wichitas had had their villages?

A. Yes, sir.

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Q. Now what did they tell you?

A. They told me about the old man. My grandma's husband, old man, he was about a hundred years old, and sometimes he was talking about stories, and sometimes night, I'm not listening to him much. This time I know. He says he born other side of Red River, and there's a big bridge down there. I saw that bridge myself as I passed down. The old man's name is Itach-ko-wa.

Q. Where did they say some of the old villages had been, of the Wichitas?

A. Wichita mountains.

Q. Other places?

A. Other place, west.

Q. And where else?

A. Other place, east side.

Q. Whereabouts on the east side?

A. Fort Sill.

Q. And still farther east?

A. Some down east.

Q. Near where?

A. Cross Timbers?

Q. What did they tell you about villages near the Cross Timbers? Did any of these old people tell you about the old villages near Cross Timbers?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What did they say about it?

A. Of course they different band; the rest of them lived here and rest of them east.

Q. Who was it that lived near Cross Timbers?

A. That old man.

Q. What relation was he to your grandma?

A. Her husband.

Q. Did they say what they got on the east side, near Cross Timbers?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What?

A. Any kind of pecan and persimmons and deer and everything.

Q. Now, did they talk to you about where the Comanches lived?

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A. Yes, sir.

Q. What did they say about that?

A. Southwest. Down near Mexico.

Q. What about the Kiowas; where did they come from?

A. Northwest.

Q. Far or near?

A. Way off. Where the Crow Indian, the same tribe Crow Indian and Kiowa.

Q. Did they ever say anything as to whether these were hostile or peaceful Indians toward the Wichitas?

A. They never were friendly with the Wichitas.

Q. Had there been in earlier days a time when they traded with the Wichitas and exchanged tobacco and pumpkins and beans for things that the Comanches had?

A. That's been lately.

Q. When was that?

A. I don't know; but it's been just after they settled and got acquainted and they trade, but not before.

Q. Did you hear when there had been a time that they traded?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did these old people, your grandma or the man you call the old man, or any of the other old people tell you where was the Wichita country?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What did they say?

A. They say they own country here.

Q. Did they give any boundaries for it--north, east, south, or west?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What did they say?

A. When I was about 13, 14 or 15 years old I went west with my mother and father and uncles.

Q. Where did they say was the lines?

A. They never did show me where the line was, but I found out afterwards myself.

Q. Did they tell you where the lines were?

A. It has been long since, and I began to realize where my lines were.

Q. Did you ever hunt yourself and go with your older people?

A. Yes, sir; I have been out hunting with my old people, when four or five in a group go out hunting.

Q. Where did you go hunting?

A. Generally go hunting on the west side of our place here.

Q. What did you go hunting for?

A. Buffalo.

Q. How far west did you go?

A. I dont know just exactly how many miles it was, but it was out toward the plains.

Q. Do you know where the Wichita Mountains and Mount Scott is?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. How far did you go beyond there?

A. Way over that,.

Q. Did they ever tell you about having Wichita villages west of Mount Scott?

(no answer)

By Mr. Hume:

Q. Did they say anything about Caddos being here with the Wichitas and the Delawares being here?

A. After I began to come to my senses and realised, the Caddos, Wichitas, and Delawares were brought here.

Q. All these tribes have been living here ever since you can remember, together, on this reservation?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. How old did you say you were?

A. About 58.

Q. You were born on Sugar Creek? (North of Anadarko)

A. Yes, sir.

By Mr. Jackson:

Q. Where was the bridge, Mr. Leonard, that your grandpa was born near?

A. Down in Texas.

Q. Did you say that you had seen the big bridge?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you say there was a big bridge at the village where he was born?

A. No, sir.

Q. What was it about the big bridge?

A. I don't know. I never said anything about the bridge. There was no bridges then.

Q. Did your grandmother tell you what river the Waco village was on?

A. She told me about it. I can't know now.

Q. What river was it?

A. Bowl-of-salt.

Q. Have you ever been down there?

A. No, sir.

Q. Your grandmother wasn't born on Red River?

A. Grandpa.

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- Q. Do you know the place where he was born?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Whereabouts was it?
- A. Wichita Springs.
- Q. Have you ever been in Texas?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Whereabouts.
- A. Henrietta.
- Q. Have you ever been to Wichita Falls?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. How old were you when you were down there?
- A. I was about over 20.
- Q. Did you go on the train?
- A. No sir in a wagon.
- Q. Who went with you?
- A. Boys. Theres one old man.
- Q. Just taking a trip?
- A. Flour and sugar and bacon and everything.
- Q. Were you working for the government then?
- A. Freightng.
- Q. Where did you freight from?

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A. Down in Texas.

Q. Wichita Falls?

A. No, sir.

Q. Mobeeta?

A. No, sir.

Q. Teepee city?

A. Henrietta.

Q. Do you know where Mobeeta is?

A. No, sir.

(excused)