

THOMAS, ROBERT B.

KIOWA TRIBE.

12835

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LEGEND & STORY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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Field worker's name R. B. THOMASThis report made on (date) January 20th 1938

1. This legend was
secured from (name) _____

Address _____

This person is (male or female) White, Negro, Indian,If Indian, give tribe Kiowa tribe.

2. Origin and history of legend or story A story of the habits and
appenings of the Kiowa tribe of Southwestern Oklahoma.

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank
sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets
attached 7

R. B. Thomas
Interviewer.
January 20, 1938.

Story of the Kiowa Indians.

The Kiowa Indians arrived in Southwestern Oklahoma, most of them settling in Kiowa and Caddo Counties, a few in Comanche County. As a clerk in the Fort Sill Trading store I was personally acquainted with Lone Wolf, the chief of the Kiowas, who lived near Hobart, the county seat of Kiowa County. He had a nice home there. In 1920 he and several other Indian delegates started to Washington on a business mission. He asked me to take him to see Governor Robertson, which I did and he and the Governor had a nice visit together. He wrote Lone Wolf a letter to the President of the United States. He was dressed in a black suit with his hair braided hanging down in two plaits, wrapped with yarn. He was about 6 foot tall, weighed 190 pounds and stood very erect. He was a very proud Indian, could not talk very much English. His Father Lone Wolf, the chief before him, was also a chief and a great warrior. When the chief came back he came to my office in Oklahoma City and told me he had a nice trip to Washington, saw the President and had a nice time.

The Kiowas are great warriors and great athletes. They are also the best artists of any of the Plains tribes, several Kiowa paintings have been shown in Europe. Many members of the tribe fill responsible positions. Jasper Saunake of Carnegie is deputy United States Marshal of the Western District of Oklahoma now. Lewis are was a representative in the twelfth Legislature, George Hunt of Mountain View has been honored by the State and Nation on several occasions. He is the best posted of any member of the tribe on Tribal Affairs. Guy Mope is a great artist. Of all the Plains tribe, the Kiowas excel in art and painting, athletics and education.

The Kiowas have a greater number of educated Indians than any other Plains tribe, many of them are teaching school. They are all becoming religious under the leadership of competent missionaries. Mr. Reverend Methwin of Anadarko, Oklahoma a Methodist Missionary at Anadarko for sixty years, has done more to educate them than any other missionary. He has been among them. He built the Methwin Mission near Anadarko. A long time after peace was declared between the Kiowas and the Comanches, Chief Quanah Parker of Cache built a fifteen foot wire fence around his large home fencing in about four acres, and it

to protect his home from attack by Lone Wolf and his Kiowa Band. I asked Quanah about it and he said the Kiowas and he were at peace but this was long time afterwards. He would not talk about the past Kiowa wars. After he made peace with them the Kiowas visited the Comanches frequently and when an Annuity Payment came they were always down to Quanah's home. The two Chiefs became very friendly in later years.

The Kiowas are tall and stand very erect and the men have coal black hair and always plait it, wrapping it with yarn and putting oil on it. Their women take care of their hair for them. Like the other Plains tribes the women do not take much pride in their appearance but do all the work.

The Kiowas had wars with the Osages, Pawnees, Cherokees, Cheyennes and Comanches, and made frequent raids into Texas and Mexico capturing white people. They captured Andele Anderez who became one of the leading men of the tribe and wrote a book of his life. His wife is an educated Kiowa, part white.

Reverend Methwin and Andele were great pals and worked together in the Missionary Field among the Kiowas.

The Comanches went with the Kiowas into Texas on raids capturing whites and Mexicans, but after the battle of the Washita and the Medicine Lodge treaty, they agreed to quit molesting the whites but when the people from Texas rode into the Reservation and began to steal ponies from the Kiowas and Comanches they forgot their promise to cease raiding, because ponies in 1868 were a Medium of Exchange for the Plains Indians. They bought even their wives with them. They became very angry at the whites of Texas and began to raid into Texas again, scalping many white people and capturing many white children. With a band of Comanches they captured Jeff and Clinton Smith of southern Texas but they turned these two captives over to the Comanches. They would divide their captives when they made raids together. They claimed Texas was their Territory and they had a right to raid it. They defended their outlawry by claiming they had a right to protect their own land by keeping whites out of their Reservations. The Indian Department was appealed to and tried to stop them but of no avail and **Santanta**, **Eagle Heart** and **Big Tree** led a band of Kiowas into Texas. They scalped a white man and the Texas people demanded

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they be punished and President Grant sent Lawrie Tatum, a Quaker, to try to subdue them and he put his Quaker Policy into effect and it did finally subdue them but the three Kiowas were tried in Texas and convicted and sentenced to hang and Santanta committed suicide near where Lawton now stands while they were taking him to prison in Texas; or rather he started to shoot the guard and the guard killed him. The other two were sent to prison for life. They were later pardoned. Eagle Heart committed suicide by jumping out of a window at Huntsville, Oklahoma. Big Tree died in 1932 at his home near Mountain View, Oklahoma. he had become a preacher and had great influence among the Kiowas. I saw him in 1907 at Fort Sill. He stood very erect and the Indians all respected him and listened to his advice.

Ahepatone was a Kiowa Chief and lived in Cotton County a short time and a town is named after him, about fifteen miles south of Chattanooga, Oklahoma. He was born in 1856 and was a half brother to Lone Wolf, the Kiowa Chief. He was a great friend of Andele Anderez, the Mexican captive. He made frequent trips to Washington with Quanah Parker on business for the tribes and in 1890 he was sent to Nevada to

investigate the Messiah craze there. He saw the old Indian Sitting Bull who started the Ghost Dance under the guise of religion. He came back to Oklahoma and called a meeting at Anadarko and invited all Plains Indians to come. There was a great gathering of all tribes. The Indian who had been teaching the dance to the Indians was called on and told that Ahpeatone had just returned from a conference with Sitting Bull and he was a hoax. The old Indian arose and agreed to return all the ponies the Indians had given him and left the meeting never to be seen again. This Messiah craze had spread to all tribes in Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota and other reservations and the Indians were dancing to exhaustion and the Government was powerless to stop them until after this investigation of Ahpeatone but when they knew he had seen the self styled Messiah, they believed in him and the craze died down.

The Kiowa language is a difficult language to speak - it is spoken with a slow guttural sound and the Courts used the Comanche language instead of Kiowa. Therefore, the Kiowas are the best sign language talkers of any of the Plains tribes. All Plains Indians use their arms in continual motion while

talking but the Kiowas use them more than any other tribe.

It is said that the Kiowas invented the sign language.