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QUASADA TRIBE

An interview with Barney Deere,
age 58, Cromwell, Oklahoma

Billie Byrd, Field Worker
Indian-Pioneer History
7-19-37

Many of the older members of the Quasada tribe used to tell that when the tribe was first moved and came to the Indian Territory that this tribe wandered to Texas where they lived for some time before they returned to the Indian Territory and settled in a vicinity south of the present Holdenville, Hughes County, Oklahoma.

When the Civil War began some of the members of the Quasada tribe joined Opothle Yahola in the flight to Kansas, some went south to Texas, but the slave owners joined in the southern army.

The government authorities issued orders and information to the Indians: "If you are to stay out of a war which has no concern about you, you will stay in your own yards where you will not be molested."

When the homes and the surrounding country where they lived became unsafe, the Indians became restless

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so that is why a division of the tribe resulted with some of the Indians going to Kansas, some went to Texas and some joined the southern forces.

Although the sweet potato had been planted the Indians did not give it attention until it was ready to be gathered. They spent their time in hunting instead of cultivating and working it, but when the Civil War broke out and the Indians were about to leave their homes, they gathered and stored the potatoes before leaving the Indian Territory. Some of the larger and heavier articles, mostly pots, were buried.

It has been told that at the close of the Civil War, the Indians who had gone to Kansas were ordered to Ft. Gibson before the return to the homes, could be safely made. Scouts were sent out to investigate and make sure that the country was safe enough to permit the Indians to return to their homes. The investigations being favorable, the Indians were given government permission to leave Ft. Gibson. Many of the members of the Quasada tribe died from the small pox epidemic that occurred at Ft. Gibson and that was why

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so few members returned to make settlements .

The Quasada tribe did not return immediately to their old settlement grounds south of Holdenville but made a settlement along the North Canadian river and along the hills known as the Rattlesnake mountains just east of the present Weleetka, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma.

punishment

The first and only time that I have ever seen whipping practiced was inflicted on a man named Millie Harjo, who was punished for rape of the wife of a man named Lumpka.

Two men of the Lighthorsemen of the Wewoka district were the ones who whipped. Their names were Billie and John Watson. Their whips were young pecan saplings or the small branches of pecan trees. The man was hung to a tree by his hands and his feet securely tied and weighted down with a heavy pole. The two men took turns alternately by giving twenty-five lashes each until one hundred and fifty lashes had been given.

Once, Lumpka mentioned above, did not have such

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a good reputation as he stole and was put in jail but he seemed to have influential friends who managed to obtain his release. This kept on for a long time until the friends got tired of helping him out. He was in jail and was to receive punishment of whipping. He received the punishment and went home.

When he reached his home he was so sore and tired that he fell face downwards on the porch and appeared to be asleep. His back was bruised from lashes. His little girl was running back and forth in the house and onto the porch when she accidentally fell and fell upon the sore and tender back. Lumka sat up and spoke sharply to the little girl, "Stay away from me and have some sense about you." A man who happened to be visiting there told the little girl, "You had better go away and mind the man who has a lot of good sense." The man who said this lives in the Cromwell, Oklahoma, vicinity and his name is Belo Deere