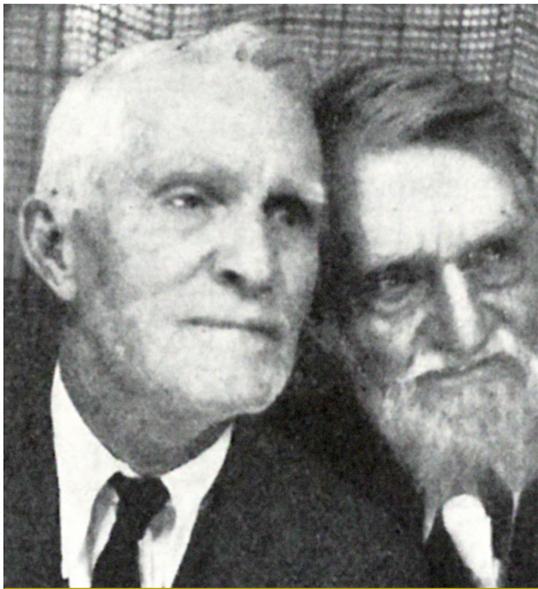


JOHN JASPER METHVIN, ANDRES MARTINEZ AND KICKING BIRD



Andres Martinez (left) and the Rev. J. J. Methvin (right).



Members of the Indian Mission Conference gather in front of the Methvin Institute in Anadarko, Oklahoma. Rev. Methvin is in the middle with beard and no hat. Andres Martinez is second from right on the porch. Early 1900s.

Missionaries in Kiowa Country

The lives and associations of these men in the late 19th century Indian Missionary Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, suggest the complexity of the interaction of Christian mission with Native American aspirations.

John Jasper Methvin was a MECS missionary in the Indian Territory from 1887, primarily among the western tribes including the Kiowa. He brought to Christ and recorded the story of **Andres Martinez** (Andele), who as a child in New Mexico was captured by the Apache and sold to the Kiowa.

Adopted by and raised in a Kiowa family, Martinez elected Kiowa ways to that of his ancestry when he had the chance to return. Martinez became a close friend and helper of Methvin in his outreach to the Kiowa. Martinez also taught at the church-related Methvin Institute, married a pastor's daughter, was himself ordained by the MECS and served appointments in Oklahoma, dying in 1935.

Martinez is credited with acting as interpreter for Methvin in the conversion of Kicking Bird, who would later become a Kiowa preacher.

Kicking Bird was born in 1863 and trained initially to succeed his father, a tribal chieftain and priest. Kicking Bird served as a scout for the U.S. Army, 1892–1895, mustering out as a sergeant. Returning to his tribe, he became the leader of a Kiowa faction that cherished the traditional ways being eroded by contact with whites.

Kicking Bird initially rejected what Methvin preached. However, through the intervention of Martinez, Kicking Bird came to plant his steps on neither the Native's or the white man's way but, he reportedly said, "got these stumbling feet of mine in the Jesus road." He became a local preacher and interpreter, founding several churches in central and western Oklahoma before his death in 1935.

Source: Robert W. Sledge, *Five Dollars and Myself: The History of Mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1845-1939*, with modifications.