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Review of *Chevato: The Story of the Apache Warrior Who Captured Herman Lehmann.* By William Chebahtah and Nancy McGown Minor

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Chevato: The Story of the Apache Warrior Who Captured Herman Lehmann. By William Chebahtah and Nancy McGown Minor. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2007. xii + 276 pp. Maps, photographs, appendixes, notes, bibliography, index. $24.95 cloth, $24.95 paper.

This fascinating book foregrounds the oral history of Chevato (Billy Chiwat), a Lipan Apache who in May 1870 captured eleven-year-old Herman Lehmann near Fredericksburg, Texas. Orphaned when young, Chevato joined the Mescalero Apaches, who were the ones actually responsible for the kidnapping of Herman and his brother Willie. In middle age, through the influence of the powerful Comanche Quanah Parker, Chevato became a Comanche and moved to Oklahoma where he lived until his death in 1931.

Non-Native captivity narratives, which have been a familiar part of American culture for centuries, usually focus on the crystallizing events of captivity and do not follow the subject's post-captivity life. Thus in many captivity narratives the whole experience is decontextualized. Yet the historical record reveals ongoing relationships between Native Americans and European Americans before and after what might be called "a captivity event." Continued contact was certainly more likely if a non-Native captive became transculturated to Native culture, as Herman Lehmann did, but then returned (perhaps unwillingly) to his culture of origin.

Chevato complements and complicates the two popular books published in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries based on Herman Lehmann's experiences: *A Condensed History of the Apache and Comanche Indian Tribes for Amusements and General Knowledge* (1899), also called *Indianology*, by Jonathan H. Jones, and *Nine Years Among the Indians: 1870-1879* (1927), by J. Marvin Hunter. Although the subtitle of *Chevato* seems to define the man by his role as one of Lehmann's captors, in fact the book focuses on Chevato's biography and includes Lehmann only when the two men's lives intersect. Surprisingly, these convergences were more frequent and more friendly than the initial captor/captive relationship might suggest. Indeed, the authors conclude that Chevato's entire life was "interwoven, in a strange and unfathomable way" with Lehmann's.

The book proceeds through the oral history of Chevato, transmitted by his grandson, William Chebahtah, with contextualization and continuity provided by an independent non-Native researcher, Nancy McGown Minor. In many ways, the final product is a model of the collaborative possibilities between Native American storytellers and European American historians. The text carefully intersperses Chevato's biography with information from other sources, including church and military archives, oral and written histories, interviews, tribal records, myths, biographies, captivity narratives, and anthropological studies. Controlling the basic narrative without digressing from it too much must have been challenging. Yet Chebahtah and Minor succeed in weaving together these explanatory strands without losing sight of the main story.

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