

planted blue looking corn to make blue dumpling with. She made (her mother) big garden and had almost everything. We made abusky, which means "parched corn." That's the way we lived. We had cabbage, beans, onions, big ones. She pulled them and hanged them up and we had them till spring. We had about four long rows of winter onions and another kind of onions. We had a lot of them. We had wood fence around it. Hogs too. We had them and even in summer time, they butchered them. My mother cooked all the meat and put them up. But others we put them up. We had beef too. We dried them.

(Dried beef--how did they do that?)

They would get real sharp knife, slice them and put them up on top of the house. They put them on sheet iron and when they dry they brought them in. They turn them over till they get dry. Brought them in at night. We boil them to cook them. Just when it's about cook, we put them in "Kerhabee," like making sofky, 'cause we didn't have no grinder and pound them dried boil beef into fine meat, put onions in it and it was good.

(How long did it take to get them dry?)

Well, it take about a week if it's real hot weather.

(Bring it in every night?)

Yeah, if they didn't something could eat them up, like cats, we had to bring them in. (laughter) They (cats) climb things. And we make abusky (parch corn). We got our water from well near mountain. My father found a spring, he dug it and it was clear and cool, it was far from home. We'd go get water and fixed abusky as a beverage.

(What do they call abusky in English?)

You don't know? Isn't it parch corn? Ask your mama. We made corn grits, cooked it and drank it like sofky. My mother made sour bread. She would set the corn by fireplace and when it was ready, she'd put on fire (coals) in iron skillet and it'd cook right away and it was good too. We use to get persimmons dried them and ate them and it was good. Nobody had nothing to do with pecans in those days, but now people are stingy with them. We got hickory nuts, not pecans. So we lived like that. My sister died--Bessie