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Nettie Cain
Investigator
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Interview with W. J. Luker,
Dustin, Oklahoma
Route # 1

I was born in Tennessee in 1872. We came to Indian Territory in 1885 from Gainesville, Texas, with a train of seven wagons, and were thirteen days on the road getting near to Eufaula where we located. Eufaula at that time was a great trading center for the central part of the Territory, or Creek Nation.

At that time the Indians would grow one or two acres of cotton which the women cultivated. When it was gathered they would fill two sacks, about one hundred pounds to the sack, put both on a pack horse and take them to market. If more cotton was icked than filled two sacks, several pack horses would be in the train going to market. This was when wagons were few.

I have witnessed tribal punishment, both whipping and executions. Captain Barney Green was captain of the Lighthorsemen. Once a young Indian had murdered another Indian. When the judge asked him why he killed the other man he replied, "I just wanted to know how it felt to kill a man." He was sentenced to be executed. Cub

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McIntosh was the judge. The prisoner was given his liberty to be free around the house until execution date. The day for the execution, everyone was ready and the grave had been dug. The prisoner had not come but when it was the exact time the prisoner walked up. They gave him a good dinner. He asked for a pipe and tobacco which he smoked, then he asked to be permitted to see his grave. He inspected the grave, walked back, asked for another smoke, then said he was ready. Captain Barney Green blindfolded the prisoner but failed to tie his hands; seated him on the rock. They gave the the signal, "One, two" but before "three" was given the prisoner raised his blindfold. They asked him why he did this and he replied, "I wanted to see them shoot me." Captain Green then tied his hands, blindfolded him again. Two Lighthorsemen fired at the same time, the two bullets hit within less than an inch of each other and came out of his back in the same place. Just as soon as he was shot they placed corks in the bullet holes and all officers left. The friends and relatives took charge of his body and buried it.

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I helped to round up the Snake Indians during the Snake Rebellion. Several soldiers and I worked together. When we had finished we had a wagon load of guns and saddles, although all the guns were not taken from the Snake Indians. Our orders were to take all six shooters from any one who was caught with them. All Snake Indians were turned over to the Federal Government. Crazy Snake had told his people they were free to serve only under the tribal laws and not the Government.

While we were on the round up, we came to an Indian's home, no one could be found - everyone had run off. On the hearth there was plenty of hot coffee, also meat cooked in a large kettle and corn bread baked in the oven skillet so the boys ate their dinner, leaving very little of the food for the Indians.