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Field Worker: Joe Southern
April 19, 1937.

Interview with Mrs. A. B. Perry, 71 years
Atoka, Atoka Co., Oklahoma.

General Life History and Experience.

Mrs. A. B. Perry, Atoka County, Atoka, Oklahoma, age 71 years, was born March 4, 1866, on Red River, near Colbert, Indian Territory. Her mother was Pretha Anderson and her father was Noah Smith, both were slaves and both died when she was a small girl. She lived with Mrs. John Harden, moving to Atoka, Indian Territory, in 1876, and she lived here or near here from that time until now. She went to school very little; the school house was a log house. She married while young. Her husband is now dead. They had two children, one boy living, now a school teacher in negro school at Atoka, Oklahoma. His name is Lexer Perry, but Mrs. Perry says she has forgotten the year and date of his birth.

Our marketing place was Paris, Texas. Transportation was horseback on ponies, oxen teams and wagons.

Game was plentiful, so were cattle and hogs.

There was not much farming--corn and vegetables in a small way. There were a few small orchards; fruit, pears, horse apples, plums, Indian peaches, figs; wild fruit was plentiful, consisting of wild cherry, grapes (three kinds, opossum, summer or post oak grapes), plums (two kinds, hog and Chickasaw plums), mulberry, black berry and dew berry. For nuts we had hickory, pecan, chinquapin, walnuts, and all were gathered and used for food.

SOAP MAKING WHEN I WAS A GIRL.

Ash hopper was made of native boards in funnel shape with hollow log at bottom end filled with ashes, water poured in top and a vessel placed at mouth of log to catch the lye water, then it was put in a large iron kettle--meat rinds or grease added, then boiled and taken from fire--when cooled, it was sliced and put in a dry place, then ready for use.

Punk was obtained from dead trees or logs, principally oak. Flint rock from mountains, used in kindling fires in pioneer days. To obtain fire, place flint in left hand, punk under thumb near edge of rock, take piece of steel or pocket knife in right hand, strike downward. It will cause sparks from steel and ignite punk.

Names of different herbs, roots, barks, gathered
and preserved to use for Medicine:

Button Snake Root, Sassafras, Honey Locust,
Post Oak, Red Oak, Prickley Ash, Slippery Elm,
Cherry, Elder Bark. Herbs; Catnip, Mallen,
Sour-Dock, Broom Weed (while in bloom), May
Apple, Polk Root, Hoshound, and Jimson Weed.
