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Dances

Burial customs

An interview with Mrs. Mary Jarvis, Kiowa,  
Charline M. Culbertson, Field Worker.

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Mrs. Jarvis came to Indian Territory with her father and mother and ten other sisters and brothers from Arkansas in 1870. They located near Norman and her father homesteaded a place. She states, however, there was very little farming being done at that time. They moved here in a wagon, killing deer, wild turkey and prairie hens on the way.

Mrs. Jarvis stated she attended a Stomp dance for rain at Keokua Falls, which is now known as Guthrie. The women formed a circle and the men formed the outer circle with a big fire in the center with a pot of boiling meats. She also attended a War dance and a Three Day Cry which was at the Elthule. After Judge James had been dead three weeks they gathered at his grave in the yard of his home and cried for three days. The women had large handkerchiefs wrapped on their heads and blankets around their shoulders. The women did all the crying, while the preacher stood at the head of the grave and preached in a language she did not know. She states they provided good beds for the white people while the Indians would lay on the ground rolled in a blanket.

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All farming was done with oxen at that time. They would cultivate only a few acres for something to eat. The game was plentiful at that time. They would kill wild game and dry the meat. They raised no hogs.

It was quite common for the Indians to live to be 100 years old.

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