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BIOGRAPHY OF Mrs. Ida "Burd" McNelly  
 Pauls Valley, Oklahoma

BORN November 8, 1887  
 Texas

Father: John Burd Mother: Liddia Avance

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I came to Indian Territory with my father and mother in 1900. We settled between Stonewall and Allen on Bogy Creek. My father farmed there. We raised cotton, corn and garden vegetables. There was lots of cattle and hogs and people just let them run loose. Our farm was fenced with rails. We lived in a log house. Everything was cheap, you could get plenty of work, from fifty cents to one dollar a day for labor, one dollar then would go as far as four dollars will now, if people would try to raise more stuff to eat and put it away for winter, they would get along better. My mother and I have put up green beans, we would gather the beans, snap them, and put them out on a sheet to dry, after they were dry we would put them in sacks and hang them in the smoke house, then when winter would come, if we wanted green beans all we had to do was go to the smoke house and open a sack. We have dried beef, by cutting it in thin strips and drying it out and then put it in boxes. We have taken corn out of the field before it got hard and would cut it off of the cob and dry it out good and dry, then put it in sacks and hang it up, when we wanted fresh corn, all we had to do was open a sack take out about what we wanted and cook it.

We lived close to an Indian woman who had a daughter about

my age and we have gone to Choctaw Indians sick dances. When some Indian was sick, they would gather at the place where the person was sick, and in the front yard they would stretch a rope around a fire and would have a big pot of all kinds of meats cooked up and thickened with corn meal, they would beat their drums for three days and at the end of this time, the medicine man would come out of the house, and jump the fire and run off into the woods. Then two Indian girls would come out, dressed in beads and terrapin shells, and dance around the fire as soon as they danced around the fire then everybody went to dancing. After this was over they would wait three days and start this over again and they would keep this up for three times if the sick one did not get well, they would say the witch had the sickone and they would let them alone. I have seen them eat this stuff they had fixed up with out of spoons made out of cow's horns.

I married John T. McNelly, January 25, 1911 and I am the mother of seven children, six now living.

Mrs. Ida Burd McNeely now lives in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma.

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