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INDEX CARDS

Cowboys

Buffalo--Cherokee Nation

Cattle--Cherokee Nation

Grist Mills--Cherokee Nation

Farming--Cherokee Nation

Outlaws--Starr, Henry

Burial Customs--Cherokee

Pioneer Life--Indian Territory

BIOGRAPHY FORM  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Alene D. McDowell

This report made on (date) May 13, 1937. 193 7

1. Name Mrs Lucy J. Auldridge.

2. Post Office Address 101 N. Kaw, Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

3. Residence address (or location) 101 N. Kaw, Bartlesville, Okla.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month April Day 3 Year 1864

5. Place of birth Lexington, Missouri

6. Name of Father Alfred Kimes Place of birth North Carolina

Other information about father Died in Coffeyville, Kansas

7. Name of Mother Elizabeth Butler-Kimes Place of birth Tenn.

Other information about mother Buried in Coffeyville, Kansas

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached           .

Alene D. McDowell,  
Research Field Worker,  
Indian, Pioneer History, S-149.  
May 13, 1937.

Biography of Mrs. Lucy L. Auldridge.  
In the Early Days.

Mrs. Lucy J. Auldridge was born April 3, 1864, on a farm near Lexington, Missouri.

Father- Alfred Kimes, born in North Carolina and is buried in Coffeyville, Kansas. Mr. Kimes was one of the first merchants in Coffeyville and also was postmaster, as the post office was located in his store. He had the first undertaker establishment in Coffeyville. He later operated a lunch counter and his best customers were the cowboys. They were usually peaceable but sometimes they would come in drunk and nearly wreck the place. There was only four houses in Coffeyville when Mr. Kimes first settled there. In later years he followed the occupation of cabinet maker. He died at the age of 65 years.

Mother- Elizabeth Butler-Kimes was born in Tennessee and is buried at Coffeyville, Kansas. Died at the age of 76 years.

"I removed to Coffeyville, Kansas, with my parents in 1868 and received my early education in Coffeyville. The school was held in an old store building and each child furnished their own seat. We only studied two subjects, spelling and the McGuffey reader.

In 1880 I married Caleb Chapman in Coffeyville. Mr.

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Chapman served as a Union soldier from Wisconsin in the Civil War. We lived in Coffeyville for four years, where Mr. Chapman owned a shoe shop and barber shop. In 1884 we removed to the Indian Territory and settled on a farm 4 miles west of Lenapah on California Creek. We raised corn and small grain for feed. Our house was a one and one-half story house with a lean-to on the back, and our barn was built of logs.

The wild game was plentiful and there were a few buffalo in the herds with the wild Texas cattle. The principal game was wild turkey, prairie chicken, quail and deer. The buffalo used to block the road and my husband would have to drive around them or drive them out of our way so we could pass.

I remember when I was a child my father took us to see a cow that had twin buffalo calves. She was with a herd of wild cattle near Coffeyville and people drove for miles to see them.

Our beds were high wood beds with springs made of ropes woven across the width of the bed. We had trundle beds that were kept under the bed during the day. My mother would weave our sheets and bed ticking and she spun yarn and knitted our stockings.

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Mr. Chapman made the water wheel and installed it in the Bartles flour mill that was located north of Caney river near Bartlesville in 1877. Mr. Chapman died in 1888 and is buried at Coffeyville.

I was reared in the same community with the Dalton boys and after my husband's death I lived in part of the house where they lived when they were in Coffeyville and cooked their meals.

In 1868 I married Allan Auldridge, a confederate soldier from Virginia, in the Civil War. He owned a 700 acre ranch 2 1/2 miles east of Lenapah on the Verdigris river. We raised 1000 acres of wheat and Mr. Auldridge was known as the 'Wheat King of Oklahoma.' He fed cattle and hogs and shipped them to Kansas City, Missouri. Henry Starr, the outlaw, herded cattle for us when he was about 18 years old and was an ideal young man. When he was killed at Harrison, Arkansas, Mr. Auldridge and I attended his funeral.

Our early day washing machines were quite different from the present day modern machines. We had no wash boards when I first arrived in the Indian Territory. We soaped our clothes and put them in a hollowed-out rock and beat them with a paddle until they were clean. This was hard on the clothes and was also very tiresome work.

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One night I was at home alone with the children and had just gone to bed when I heard a noise at the bedroom window, and there was a big negro man half way in the window. I called to him and he paid no attention. We always kept a loaded gun in the house and when <sup>he</sup> did not answer I shot at him and he fell back through the window and disappeared. The next morning the men trailed him for about two miles by the blood along his trail and then lost him in the timber.

The Indians were always friendly with us and would slip into the house and make themselves at home. They would trade us venison hams for peafowl feathers. They were always begging for something to eat, especially for biscuits. They would fry eggs and dump them out of the frying pan into a corner of their blanket, sit on the ground and eat them. When we had a lunch counter in Coffeyville they would eat the scraps from out the swill pails.

Mrs. Annie Toney, a Cherokee Indian woman, and her new born infant died and the baby was wrapped in a blanket and put under the bed and nobody ever knew what became of it.

Auldridge attended the woman's funeral. Her body was placed in a tent where a big fire was built to smoke her

and the Indians marched around the casket all night and made a mournful noise. The casket had holes about the size of a dollar cut in it to let the spirits out, and the corpse was placed in the last wagon in the procession and taken to the cemetery. All the clothing and bedding belonging to her, except one suit for her to wear when she came out, was buried with her. The preacher hid the one suit in the woods after the burial. As soon as the woman died, the other women began preparing a feast and, after the grave was covered, a blanket was spread over it and the food placed on the blanket and the feast began. Eight days after the funeral, the husband killed two hogs and a beef and another feast was held. The husband took a bath and dressed in a new suit and enjoyed the celebration.

The Indians would have their various celebrations and dances which would last two or three months. A temporary camp was set up and looked similar to a small town, they would have a blacksmith shop, harness and saddle repair shop and various other small enterprises.

I remember when the Indians came to Coffeyville to buy supplies, they would bring the family. The town was thinly settled near the Patterson Mill in the south part of

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town and two squaws would often disappear near the mill and in a couple of hours they would come to town with a young baby wrapped in a blanket, ready to travel again.

The early days had lots of hardships and were wild but I believe people were safer with the outlaws and Indians than they are now, and were happier and had more money. We raised what we ate and all we had to spend our money for was a few clothes and the people did not demand so many luxuries as they do in the present day.