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Indian-Pioneer History, Project
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211 Federal Building, Muskogee, Okla.

NOAH FRAZIER

(Full Blood Choctaw Indian)
Route #4, Atoka, Okla.
A Personal Interview.

Joe Southern, Field Worker
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149
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Noah Frazier was born September 15, 1872, southeast of Atoka, Indian Territory about eight miles, in what was then known as Folsom Settlement. His father and mother died when he was a small boy and are buried at what is now known as High Hill Cemetery. He lived with his grand-father whose name was Abenazer Folsom, from Mississippi. Lived in a log house covered with native boards rived from native timber. Cracks between logs were plastered with mortar made of wet clay and grass mixed together and rubbed in by hand. Chimney to house was constructed in same manner.

Cooking was done on fire built in chimney or fire place. Cooking utensil used was Dutch oven with lid for baking bread and meats, long handled pan for frying different foods, cast iron kettle with handle for boiling water or coffee, cast iron pot with bail and lid for stewing meats and vegetables. Indian dyes were made of different barks and roots gathered and boiled down to a thick fluid. The cloth or whatever was to be dyed was dipped in and let remain a certain length of time, drawn out and hung or placed in sunshine to dry.

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Different colors:- Walnut color (walnut bark or leaves), brown color (post oak), Apple color (red oak bark and bois d' arc), blue (elder berries, black gum berries)--put in salty water and boiled to set color.

Body or face paint was gathered in its natural form from mountain range, west of Stringtown, Indian Territory about three miles near to what to was then known as Walker Settlement. Put in vessel, add water, stirred until a thick paste, -- then ready for use.

First school went to was in log house. My teachers name was Samuel Folsom. My book was Blue Back Speller. School located near where I was born. Don't have much education.

Farming, -- Potatoes, beans, corn, vegetables, -- in small way. My grand-father had plenty of hogs, cattle, ponies, running on free range. To distinguish the ownership, each family had different marks or brands on their live stock. The ruling order was to own land in common. You could not build or fence within one-fourth mile of another inhabitant.

Marketing point for livestock was Ft. Smith, Arkansas. Transportation was driving over land what was known then as Ft. Smith Trail. Several families would gather what they had for sale, would hook ponies to chuck wagon to haul camping necessities. Some went horse back to drive livestock,--took five to ten days for round trip. Would load ponies and wagon with flour and meal, guns,

ammunition, wearing apparel, -- shawls and clothing of different kinds,-- on return trip.

Wild game was plentiful when I was a boy. Consisted of squirrel, bear, deer, coon, opossum, skunk, beaver, mink.

Catfish, several kinds of scale fish, bass, perch, prappie, Buffalo, carp, sucker and several other kinds. Poisonous snakes; rattler, coon tail, diamond back, copperheads, cotton mouth, and several other kinds. Fowls, wild and tame, --turkey, ducks, geese, prairie chicken, quail.

Camp meeting was located at Salem Church, northeast, near Muddy Boggy River on west side, down stream from where present bridge on Highway 19 crosses stream. My grand-father, Abananezer Folsom, was preacher to the Choctaw Indians at that time. The church was destroyed by forest fires, there was no one lived near there to care for it.

Road markings or symbols. 3 Notch Road across in and out of Indian Territory, north and south and east and west. 2 Notch Roads would lead into 3 Notch Road. One Notch Roads would lead into 2 Notch Roads and a blazed road or trail would lead into a 1 Notch Road.

When I was a small boy, symbols or emblems of different animals:- snake or fish or fowl cut on side of trees at camp ground and stream crossing and lakes, meaning if a hunter or fisherman going into mountains to hunt and fish came to an established camp ground or stream he would look for different emblems on side of trees.

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If he was bear hunting and see emblem of bear he would know that these parts of the country was inhabited with bear.

If snake emblem were on tree also, this is a warning these parts are inhabited with poisonous rattlesnake. If fish, turtle emblem meaning stream, water hole or lake are inhabited with these. If you look about you, find

emblem of turkey, deer, squirrel, coon, beaver, meaning this part of the country is inhabited with this different wild game.