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Ball games--Chickasaw
Center

McGee

Outlaws--Chickasaw Nation

Field-Worker: Maurice R. Anderson
February 23, 1937.

BIOGRAPHY OF Mr. John Howard
Pauls Valley, Oklahoma.

BORN 1897 in Texas

FATHER : Isacc Howard

MOTHER : Kitty

I came to Indian Territory with my father and mother in 1891. We stayed at Pauls Valley, Oklahoma, a few days. Then we went on to Lexington, Old Oklahoma, and my father settled on an 80 acre farm, 18 miles Northeast of Lexington. We raised cotton and garden vegetables. Stayed there three years. I have watched the Indians play ball every summer. They would meet at Old Center and have their ball games. Old Center is eight miles East of Old McGee. Old McGee is two miles North of Stratford, Oklahoma. Before the game was over they would have a big fight, In those days, about 1895, there were lots of horse and cattle thieves. I remember in 1897 my father and I had gone to Healdton, Indian Territory, and on our way back one night we had camped. We were asleep in the wagon, when along in the night my father woke up in time to see someone climbing into the wagon. My father grabbed his gun and made the party back out of the wagon. When we got out on the ground we found he was an Indian. He said he wanted to borrow some coffee, so father gave him coffee. Then he wanted to know how to get to Pauls Valley, so my father told him, but he went the wrong way. After he had gone, we hooked up our team and drove the rest of that

Old McGee, Indian Territory. I have seen corn ricked up sometimes four or five thousand bushels in a pile, and have seen it sell for 10 cents a bushel, cotton seed, 10 cents a bushel. You could buy bacon at four cents a pound. Labor was 50 cents a day.

We moved near Lindsay, Oklahoma in 1898, we farmed there. In 1899, I helped drive 200 head of fat hogs to Purcell from Lindsay. It took us 4 days. I have lived around Pauls Valley and farmed there since 1899, my father and mother are now deceased.

Mr. John Howard lives in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma, at present.

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