

INDEX CARDS

Farming--Creek Nation
Farm Implements--Creek
Cattle--Creek Nation

MARKETING OF COTTON AND LIVESTOCK .

An interview with A. C. Coulter, age 84, white, Okemah,
Oklahoma

Billie Byrd, Field Worker
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149
5-12-37

There was not much selling of crops during the period soon after the Civil War. Everyone had plenty for their own use. There was always abundant feed for the livestock and the people raised enough for the everyday necessities for the home use.

There began a little selling of cotton when the trading posts were being established. Cotton and corn were the main products raised. The distance to the gins for marketing cotton was so far that people did not attempt to raise so much.

Some of the Indians managed to have some crude farming implements. Those that did not have these articles often tilled their small patches by some sort of picks-- sometimes a crude wooden pick was fashioned from limbs of trees.

When the cotton industry was being established, some of the Indians of the Muskogee-Creek tribes used to carry a sack of cotton on horseback to market for at least twenty-

twenty to twenty-five miles and only received twenty-
five cents a hundred pounds for the cotton. The sacks
usually contained one hundred pounds of cotton. If a
person had a wagon load, he would make the long and slow
trips to the market and to the gins. 118

The people living around what is now Hanna, Oklahoma,
took their products to Eufaula, while the people living
in the vicinity of what is now Okemah, Oklahoma, took
their products to either Holdenville or Wewoka.

There was plenty of cattle and there was always plenty
of feed for them. The owners neglected to feed them proper-
ly and took sick. When the cattle became sick or diseased
the owners neglected to doctor them. No one would buy the
diseased or sick livestock.

Later on, the government passed a law prohibiting the
sale of livestock unless passed by the U. S. inspectors.
A heavy penalty was placed upon the cattle men selling
diseased cattle, but the U. S. inspectors usually decided
if a cattle was fit to be sold.

COURSEY, VIRGIL.

ALTUS.

8814

119