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GEORGE W. CROW, Informant.
Okay, Oklahoma.

James S. Buchanan

March 20, 1876 my father, Clark Crow and my mother, Addie Crow and six children including myself started from Crawford County, Kansas bound for the Indian Territory in a wagon loaded with supplies such as clothing, camping equipment, lard, flour, meal etc., with the family in a spring hack, and driving twelve head of horses. I was the oldest of the six children, seventeen years of age at that time and the youngest child a girl, Cora, two years of age. The journey of about a week was rather uneventful and after crossing the Arkansas River, just below the mouth of the Verdigris river on what was then known as the Nevins Ferry, on March 28, a permanent stop was made on the Bird Harris farm about one-half mile east of what is now Bacone College. There was a tumbled down, one room, log house where Bacone College now stands and the surrounding ground was used as a stumping ground by stock. We camped in the log cabin and pulled the spring hack, which had side curtains and removable seats, up to the side of the cabin and used as a sleeping room for us boys. Making a living the first year was a very hard matter, but there was plenty of wild game such as turkey, deer and prairie chicken. We planted a garden and about forty acres of corn on the Jobe place which was near by. Our spare time was spent fishing, hunting and helping ferry stock back and forth across the river.

The M. K. & T. had a construction camp where Muskogee now stands and the railroad extended only a short distance south of Muskogee at that time. Settlers were very few. Mrs. Nevins, who ran the ferry, Garland Harris and Mr. Jobe were about all who lived in that vicinity at that time. There were many Indians who usually lived in log cabins. They would visit the settlers and sit for hours grunting and making signs, but they were very peaceable and never disturbed any one. In the year of 1884 I was married to Dixie Hereford, the daughter of William Hereford

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who was originally from Kansas but came from Texas to the Territory and settled about five miles east of what is now Wagoner, on the east side of Nigger Creek, just south of the old Stout place. From their covered wagon they moved into a one room log cabin with a hole in the wall for a chimney, but no chimney. They used a bonfire until they could construct a stick and mud chimney, which Dixie helped build. After a few years my father moved north across the river about five miles northeast of Okay and before 1900 all the family except myself moved to a ranch near Calahan, Colorado. Mother died in 1916, and father in 1935 at the age of ninety-six. The four children, Hugh, Addie, Mattie and Cora still live in Colorado and Bill lives in Cameron, Missouri. Through years of struggles and hardships with the assistance of the little family that God blessed Dixie and I with I have acquired about one thousand acres of land northeast of Okay, just west of Grand river. My two sons, Vernon and Fay, have owned and operated this land since I quit farming and moved to Wagoner about twenty-five years ago.

William Hereford, Dixie's father, was the first person to plant cotton in The Indian Territory and had wonderful success, and later moved to the Nevins farm northeast of Muskogee and began raising cotton on a larger scale.