

INDEX CARDS

Removal--Creek
Salt works--Creek
Clothes--Creek
Dances--Creek
Council houses--Creek
Ball games--Creek

Nettie Cain,
Research Field Worker S-149,
March 12, 1937.

187

Old Indian Days
in the
Muskogee - Creek Nation
Interview with Sarty Cowe, aged Muskogee Indian
Effie Factor, his daughter, interpreting.

Sarty Cowe's mother was born on the way to Indian Territory. His father, Siwaky, was born one year after his parents landed from Alabama. They were both of the upper Muskogees.

Sarty Cowe was born near Wetumka in Hughes County, September 17, 1853. His mother died in 1872 and his father in 1884.

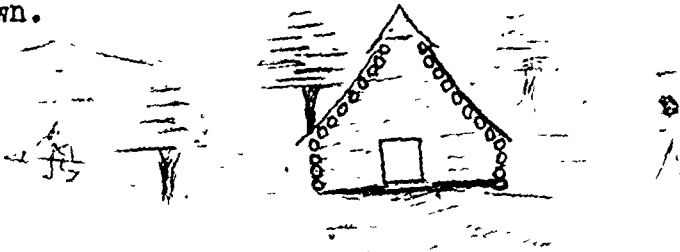
About 1865 the salt mine was discovered near Wetumka. The people would dig a hole, let the water run in and then boil the water down to pure salt, this was all the salt they had in these days. The mine is located 3 miles from Wetumka, about the center of the new water lake. Sarty said he believed in time the water would become salty.

He served as a Light Horseman in the Muskogee-Creek Nation in 1887.

CLOTHES

In his early days the men didn't have pants. They wore long shirts. In the summer they didn't wear any clothes, just a sack cloth around them. The women did not

know how to sew and make their dresses. They would take the cloth and just wrap it around them. The children were dressed likewise. They never had any shoes, wore mocassins. Some wore buckskin pants. Men and all, wore their hair in long braids, because barber shops were unknown.



CEREMONIAL (Chukko-Fuskee) HOUSE
"Sharp-house."

In the early days the Indians would build a large round house for their annual dances. One of the oldest locations was in McIntosh County, which was Tucki-batchi, on Salt Creek west of Wetumka in Hughes County. This was in 1870. The old location was 4 miles north of Indianola.

BALL GAMES

When playing ball they would be from 20 to 80 playing. No one wore clothes. All would wear long feathers in their hair. The one making 20 marks (scores) was the winner. They would bet old clothes on the game. The game was seldom finished, usually ending in a free for all, beating each

- 3 -

other over the head with their sticks.

WILD INDIANS

Wild Indians used bows and arrows. They were mean, always killing or causing trouble among other people.

(a)
The wild Indians first started near the Panama Canal and later landed here, finally the white men (3) visited their camp, and at this time they were given whiskey, all got drunk and after they got sober, they were more civilized and never caused further trouble.

The whiskey was transported from Fort Smith, Arkansas, or Denison, Texas, which was against the law, and if caught
(b)
would always have to work the fine.

NOTE: (a) Sarty Cowe's statement as to the origin of the Wild Indians and the visitation of the White men and the awakening of the savages to civilization after the grand carousal has no authentic substantiation.

(b) The fine referred to for the sinful transportation or importation of whiskey into the Indian Country refers to the law in the Old Muskogee-Creek Nation.

A detailed description of the Ceremonial House referred to in the 5th paragraph may be found on pg. 179, 42nd Annual Report, Bureau of American Ethnology.

Above notations by Thomas F. Meagher,
Project Supervisor.