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Mrs. Etta D. Mason
Indian Research Worker
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Nancy Homer Fulsom Cox
Negro ~~slave~~, Atoka, Okla.

Nancy Homer Fulsom Cox, born 1865, doesn't remember the month or day, on Red River near Spurling, Texas. Mother was Phillis Factory, a slave, born at Muskogee. Father was Wyley Homer, born in Mississippi.

Nancy Cox has been married five times.

She is very proud of the Fulsom name. Fulsom was her first husband. He was a fullblood Choctaw. Her children by Fulsom show more Indian than negro. They have tribal roll numbers and own land.

Her other husbands were negroes.

Nancy is only half negro and has a tribal roll number and owns land.

She is very superstitious and never attended school a day in her life. There were no schools on Red River and her people, negroes and Indians, attended church nearly 40 miles from where they lived. The meeting place was Double Springs.

The young people had dances and Nancy laughed as she said she had swung many a Indian brave around the dance floor.

A few of the superstitions were:

If an owl perched on one's roof and hooted there would be a storm.

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If a woodpecker lighted on one's house and knocked (pecked on the wood and made a noise like knocking) unless the bird was killed, one of the family would die.

If a hen crowed there would be a fight in the family.

Nancy believes all these omens and so do her children.

They crossed Red River in skiffs or small boats when they went into Texas.

When a man had been caught in a felony, he was called to the Indian court in the community and asked if he were guilty. If he said he was guilty, he was told to appear at a certain time for his sentence. When the day came, a grave was dug and when the man appeared, he was shot down and buried. There were no coffins in those days, boards were laid on the ground on the bottom of the vault; the body was placed in the grave and boards laid across the top of the vault; then the grave was filled with dirt.

A few of the herbs used for medicine were:

Black Root, Brown muslin, Ball Willow, Sheep safron, for measels and smallpox; Rat safron, for toothache. The white from chickens droppings, boiled with sage, for diphtheria. Soot, sugar and spider web to stop bleeding. Hog weed for malaria; blood weed for purifying the blood; and bear grass roots cooked with lard into a salve was used to straighten hair.

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An interview with
Nancy Fulsom Com,
Choctaw Freedman
Atoka, Oklahoma.

Grant Foreman, Director
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Mrs. Etta D. Mason,
Field Worker.

The story originated among the negroes and Indian who lived on Red River, in the Southern part of what is Oklahoma. It was believed to be true and the woman who told it says she saw the person or whatever it was many times.

"ONE ARM CELIA OR WINGED CELIA"

One arm Celia lived in our settlement. No one knew where she lived for she always made her appearances suddenly. She lived by stealing. All of our people were afraid of her and she would come into our houses and get anything she wanted.

She had wings that folded out from her body and when we heard the chickens cackling in the yard, we knew that winged Celia was coming.

She would be seen, perched on some one's housetop ready to come in and get what she wanted. Children and grown people would throw rocks and clubs at her but could never hit her.

She was a conjurer and was responsible for all the bad things that happened in the community.

She never left our community. When we would beg her to go away and leave us alone, she would laugh and make a noise like a chicken.

She was a terror to our community for several years, but finally a white man told us that she could be killed with a silver ball.

The white man sent to a foreign country and got a silver ball. One of the negroes put the ball in his gun and went hunting for winged Celia. He found her in a small cleared place and shot her with the silver ball. She fell and the man who shot her drove a wooden stake thru the middle of her body into the ground, pinning her body to the ground. And there they left her to rot and for the buzzards to pick.