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Hides--Tanning

Dawes Fife,
Research Field Worker,
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Interview with Louis Cumsey
Sapulpa, Oklahoma

Louie Cumsey, age 59, living $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles southwest of Sapulpa, explained a method of hide tanning.

This method of hide tanning was to remove the hide from the animal, stretch the hide and fasten it to poles, stretching and spreading it as tight as possible.

The hair was then scraped off with sharp pieces of glass or other sharp objects.

It was then rubbed thoroughly with warm hog brains to soften and preserve it. Sometimes wood shavings were mixed with the brains.

The hide was then removed from the poles and rubbed between the hands to make it soft. It was rubbed until it became as soft as a rag.

The hide was then stretched and hung up again. A fire of green hickory wood was built under the hide, smoking and tanning it. The process of smoking it removed the scent and also tanned it.

It was then rubbed again with brains to soften it after the smoking process.

It was then ready for use.