

INDEX CARDS:

Creek Nation
Salt Creek Church
Mining Salt
Indian Superstitions

Billie Byrd, Field Worker
Indian-Pioneer History
6-23-37

SALT

An Interview with Phillip Dunzy,
Age 48, Kialagee Town (Tulwa),
Wetumka, Oklahoma.

About four miles north of Wetumka, Oklahoma, is located Lake Wetumka and right on the east bank of this lake is located the Salt Creek Indian Baptist Church. This church was so named because the Indians had salt works there, where they obtained their salt. The salt was worked at about the center part of the present lake long years before the lake was ever made.

The salt was found at so many feet under the ground, probably about three feet. It was told that the salt was mixed with sand as well as with some other dirt. Since salt is heavier than either sand or dirt, the people would dig the salt out of the ground and put it in a big pot with water to boil it down.

When the salt mixture came to a boil, the scum which was the dirt, sand, and other matter, came to the top and it was dipped out and thrown away. This mixture was kept boiling for several hours and any

- 2 -

scum that came to the top would be continually thrown away until the water became clear and showed that the water and salt was pure and free of sand or dirt.

When the water thus became clear, it was boiled down until the water was boiled away and only salt remained in the pot.

CUSTOMS

During the hot dry weather time the Indians, when necessary, made it rain or they thought they were causing rain by their different acts.

One method was by digging a hole three feet deep on a baby's or small child's grave and filling the hole with water.

These different methods were heard of away back in the earlier days and were used to a great extent in the Indian Territory. The water used was not just the pure water itself but the water had gone through the rites of the medicine man and contained certain herbs required. The certain herbs are not exactly known.

Some of the Muskogee-Creek Indians used to

- 3 -

sprinkle prepared water in the cemetery which caused rain.

It has been known that if any human bones were hung along the banks of the creek or river, it was certain to rain. The human bones hung right along the sides of the banks of the creeks or rivers; it would rain and the water would rise in the stream until water touched the bones.