

DUNZY, LUCENDY (LONG)

INTERVIEW

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Nettie Cain,
Investigator,
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An Interview With Lucendy Long Dunzy,
Creek Indian, Wetumka, Okla.

Lucendy (Long) Dunzy of Wetumka, Creek Indian, was born in the Creek Nation in 1866.

Her father was George Long and her mother was Matilda Cornell Long and they were both born in the Creek Nation. Her grandparents came from Alabama. On their way here the Indians suffered many hardships.

Two small girls of Tim Barnett's were drowned in the Mississippi River when the ferry boat gave way. A woman had a quilt tied around her baby and when she fell into the river and the quilt became wet she was almost drowned. The quilt was heavy and she could not swim but some men in a small boat came to her rescue, saving both the woman and the baby.

When the Creek Indians were told to leave and they refused to leave Alabama, they were put in groups with bells tied around their necks and driven like cattle and some of them were whipped.

In the pioneer days the Indian used to bathe in creeks; sometimes breaking the ice; if a man bathed in a stream

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above that place where a women bathed, he would be punished as it was against their rules and the punishment was very severe, as they thought it an awful crime and the man's ears would be cut off.

Mrs. Dunzy's father, George Long, was Captain of the Lighthorsemen of the Wewoka District. He would often bring prisoners to the home and keep them. Mrs. Dunzy saw several Indians punished by the whipping lash. One was a negro boy who had stolen something.

One night a negro man crawled into Mr. Long's house and they thought he was fixing to kill them so Mr. Long killed him.

Before the women knew what a rubboard was, their way of washing clothes was to put them on a block and take a long paddle and beat them until the clothes were clean. The white clothes were boiled and jimson weeds were used to whiten them.

The women would take buffalo hides and make blankets to wear.

Corn was used in ten different ways for food. It was used to make sofkey, hominy, bluebread and sourbread.

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Sofkey was made from parched corn. Hickory sofkey was made by using meat that had been smoked with hickory smoke and ground and the meat put into bread.

They used to wrap bread in corn shucks. This is the reason the Indians could live so long on corn alone. Blue dumplings which will keep for several days were made with corn.

One day some Indians were traveling and they had made some blue dumplings and in some way they lost some of them. A white man soon came and saw these blue dumplings but did not know what they were at first but he picked up several and soon found that they were very good to eat so as he was very hungry he ate them and then he drank some water, ^{as} and the dumplings were very dry the water soon filled him. Then he was very uncomfortable but the blue dumplings had kept him from starving.

The Creek Indians were very much frightened when the Isparhechar war started. They thought it would be like the Civil war and some of them loaded their wagons and went across the South Canadian River.