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Abstract

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We Had Good Things

by James Treat

my father and mother were driven
from alabama to oklahoma
when the last creeks were forced to leave
 they did not want to leave their
home and everything they had
 they loved their home and country

but were forced by the government to leave

 they had little to eat and
suffered many hardships
 they were treated very rough

i plowed my own ground and

made and gathered my own crop
then they moved me off of my land
and rented it
 i dont get much money
 i have good land in the south
canadian bottoms near hanna
 i have about fifty or one hundred
pecan trees on it but i have to pick
cotton for other people and gather corn
for them to get my bread
 after the land was rented someone

burned down the log house my father
built

 i live now with another indian
woman who is alone
 i work for her
 i work hard

we would dry the deer and bear meat
by cutting it up into big pieces
and running a stick through it

then cut a limb with forks in it
and make a rack and hang it up to
dry

 we had good things to eat
wild honey

blackberries grapes and plums for fruit
but we did not eat much fruit because
we liked meat and corn best

Uppahake Watkoche, b. 1855