

them days did not pick more than about thirty-five pounds when cotton was heavy. I had good days with my Uncle, he being very kind to me and in the Spring he sent me to school at Boggy. The school house was then an old log structure, having two doors and a fireplace, windows being made by having pushed the mortar and filling out between two logs on the side facing South. In this University I took my first step in the English ABCs. I learned rapidly and before school was out I was in the Third Reader. During Summer I done such work as I could do. The third year that I stayed with my Uncle he was bitten by a rattlesnake from which he recovered, but the poison being in his blood he was taken down with a severe illness from which he never recovered for many years.

The agreement being that I should stay with my Uncle until I was sixteen years of age, I now come to another epoch of my life. At that time my Uncle who had come over with me was living in Waco and he asked me to come and stay with him for a while, an offer I gladly accepted as my Uncle's Mother-in-law and me could not get along together. It went smooth enough before my Uncle taken sick because she had nothing to boss about then. But after he was taken sick she seemed to think that she had to boss the farm. As I have said, I accepted my Uncle's invitation to stay with him a while and accordingly I went to Waco in the Winter of 1887. I stayed with him for about two months and then commenced to work for a German farmer by the name of Fred Kron ten miles South of Waco. I did not work there more than about one month and a half. I again went to Waco and found employment in the Waco Woollen Mill operated by Slayden and Kirksey, working on what was termed as the third brakers, receiving four dollars per week on my own board. I obtained board from my Uncle, paying two dollars per week when at work and when not at work I should do such work as there was around the house.

I worked at the mill until the latter part of July '87 when I quit there and went back to Bosque County, but that year being very dry, work was scarce and so I did not stop in the settlement long but left it and went to Limestone County where a few Norwegian families had settled as renters of land. I picked cotton there until sometime before Christmas and then obtained work from a man by the name of John Johansen. I worked with this man for a period of four years commencing with a wage of eleven dollars per month. This was cheap but it must be considered