

There were many prominent Cherokees who live in the area during Mr. Fields' young days. On the south edge of Peters Prairie was one, Houston Downing. Mr. Downing lived on Whitewater Creek and owned a beautiful farm in the valley there. He never went far from his home and lived out his life in the valley where he was born. About the only time he left home was to go to the Delaware District courthouse for jury duty or as an official of the court. Mr. Fields went to Bucket School with some of his children, and says the one remaining son, Charley Downing, still lives in the Whitewater Creek country.

Mr. Fields reflects on the way of life of long ago. The purchase of a new wagon in those days was just like people of to-day getting a new automobile, and they attained some degree of economic and social standing temporarily. He recalls when a Cherokee of long ago obtained a new axe. It was treated with much respect and care. He recalls seeing the Indians carefully wipe of the axe blade after use and apply a coating of grease to it before putting it away. A regard and respect for value of things seems to have changed very much in the last half century. Even more care and treatment was afforded the cross-cut log saw, which was one of the most used tools of the old timers.

He tells that people of the older days worked hard to clear, fence and cultivate their little tracts of land. They had a love and respect of their land and labors, that is not known in the present generations.