

The recovery period following the Civil War was one of hardship and hard work. The War depleted the herds of cattle and hogs. She says her father went into Arkansas trying to find a hog to get a herd started, and did find some. But he had to wait until the old sow had her pigs before he could get one. People did get by on the fish and wild game and their knowledge of the edible plants of the woods and fields. Thanks to the Yankees, or Union soldiers, many homes, barns, and rail fences were burned. Sallie Eagle was one of the first settlers in the Wauhilla country, and the community was named for this family. Wauhilla, or wa-hi-la is Cherokee for eagle. She tells that the Eagle family once lived on down the creek, but the wolves were so bad they could not keep any hogs, sheep or poultry and had to move back to the Wauhilla neighborhood. A part of the Keys land was originally owned by Goggle-eyed Smith and he sold out to Levi Keys. She tells that Ned Christie robbed the Wauhilla Store at least three different times when Levi Keys was getting to be an old man. Keys finally closed his store and moved to Tahlequah, but he was unhappy there and moved back to Wauhilla where he died. Many of the Indians of the olden days belonged to the Masonic Lodge, and among them was George O. Sanders, Levi Keys, Goback Christie, John M. Sanders, Jim Eagle, and others.