

He recalls his father telling of the court trials at the GoingSnake Courthouse at Strawberry Springs. For some offenses the convicted was whipped at the tree, some sentenced to be hung, and other kinds of punishment meted out. He tells that the first courthouse for the Goingsnake District was at the old Whitmire place, and was a big log building.

He remembers when the people had to travel to Siloam Springs or to Ft. Smith to trade and obtain supplies. There were a few little country stores scattered thru the hills, but they did not carry anything but the small items of necessity. It would take two, three or more days to make a trip to the Arkansas towns in those days and it was a hard trip over bad roads. He mentions that when going to trade in Arkansas they would go thru the Adair settlement, and it was from this Adair family that the present County takes its name. The Adairs have figured prominently in the early history of the Cherokee Nation, many of them holding responsible positions.

He speaks of the old Cherokee families of England Hollow, among which were the Englands, Knights, Blackwood, Adairs, Sixkillers, Crittenden, Hummingbird, Thornton, Shell, and Blackbird.

He speaks again of the old place he used to live in Scraper Hollow. Frame Chewie was the owner there before his father bought the place. He recalls that nearby was the little country school called Scraper school. Also there was a church house by the school.

Speaking of his early schooling, he tells that he went to Sequoyah Training School from 1912 to 1926. Then he entered service and served overseas during World War I in the Navy.

Peavine community is another of the nearby old Indian settlements and was named for the Peavine Cherokee family. One of the cemeteries that serve that community is known as the Reece Cemetery, and started by Charley Reece, an old Cherokee settler. At one time Mr. Grigsby went to the Taylor School in the Peavine community.

He mentions that there used to be a water mill on Tyner Creek near Proctor. This mill was run by Joe Reece, and people of a wide area used to bring their corn and wheat there to be ground. He also mentions the Beck Mill which was on Flint Creek west of Siloam Springs. In that same area he tells of Twin Springs, which was two springs near each other, one was fresh water and the other salt water. Also he mentions that on the old Alberty place northeast of Peavine there was a sulphur spring which was highly regarded by the Indians for its medicinal property.

In the old days he tells that his father worked with Zeke Proctor in the law enforcement. His father always said that Zeke was a good man. The law men in that day of the Cherokee Nation usually carried .32 or .38 caliber Winchester Rifles and .45 Colt pistols. Many differences were settled the hard way by men of the early days, and he mentions one such instance. Mose Crittenden and Sam Alberty squared off one day at the Whitmire Schoolhouse. On that celebration day of July 4, 1902, there was a big crowd. Crittenden was the faster on the draw but Alberty still had enough strength left to shoot and both men fell dead.