

100 years old. A huge fireplace and even larger chimney of large white stone testify to workmanship and durability. A short distance from the old abandoned home is a little cemetery that has long ago lost its identity. No stones mark the graves, but Mr. Phillips mentions some of those buried here. They include Will Foreman, Nancy Roach, the Napier infant, and others. At this time the weeds were too high to see much of it.

About a mile north of Lowrey and back in the high grass at the edge of a woods is the little abandoned Foreman Cemetery. In a way it reflects the changing times and attitudes of the twentieth century. Abandoned and forgotten, yet here lie at rest some of those who carved out of a wilderness a home and place for themselves and their decedents. Their present day decedents would seem to care less. Some of the Foremans', Roaches, Lowreys, and some unknowns are at rest. Some 200 Lowrey's gather each year for a family reunion, but not one flower is placed on Switchler Lowrey's grave in Foreman cemetery. Could it be that this same attitude exist when those who will live fifty or sixty years from now harbor? It almost makes one wonder why spend so much on beautiful monuments.

Mr. Phillips recalls the days of long ago when they used to travel by wagon over almost non-existent roads to go to Tahlequah or Siloam Springs, the nearest trading posts then. To get their corn and wheat ground they would go to a grist mill over on the Illinois River in Peavine Hollow, which would be near what is now known as Hanging Rock. At that time a man by name of Moore operated the mill. Sometime around the turn of the century a flood on the river completely carried away the mill, and it was never rebuilt.

The first school that Mr. Phillips remembers in the Lowrey Prairie country was a log building called Swayback School. The school was properly named because the roof did have a nice bow in it. Nearly all of the children attending here were Cherokees. Jim does not recall the name of the teacher who was part Indian and spoke both English and Cherokee.

Except for the Foreman burial place, the Lowrey Community never had another cemetery. Some families had their own private burial places, but for general use the graveyards at Molly Fields, Terecita, Batt, and Moodys have been used for much over half a century.

Two or three miles north of Lowrey Prairie is the beautiful Spring Creek. Its cold clear water is the same today as it was in the Indian Territory times. The older Indians speak of the meetings that used to be held on Spring Creek. In telling of