

Crittenden, Proctor, and Christie who kept the lawmen busy. Arch says the early Creek Indians were killers when they became angry. The Choctaws were generally peaceful, but if crossed the wrong way would become a mean and formidable opponent.

Arch tells that it was Thanksgiving Day in 1916, when Old Charley Keys, a Cherokee living up on Coon Creek, lost a gun fight with lawmen. Arch's father and Dave Cole cut the clothes off of Key's body so the doctor could examine him.

One day long ago, Arch was riding through the river bottoms and met a couple of horsemen, who asked him if they had heard about Ralph Carter. He had not, and they told him that he had been killed that morning and his body was laying down in the brush not far from them. They said they heard Bill Gillispie did it. Arch rode on a little farther to the cabin of Toots Baker, as she was supposed to have been with Carter when he was killed; Toots was sitting on the porch when he rode up. Miss Baker's reputation was not a shining light of purity as he knew her and had gone to school with her when they were kids. Toots was crying and Arch could not get much information from her, other than she did not know anything about it. He suspicioned she may have had something to do with the outlaw's death. As he and the other two men were about to go look at the body, some lawmen came up hunting for Carter, and they learned their pursuit was over. The lawmen had been hunting for Carter, and only a week before they tried to arrest him on charges of wife and child desertion, among other things, but he slipped out the back door and got away. Whatever happened on that 15th day of September, 1922 was never really known.