

When it existed, the McNair home was a large two-story house, well kept and a beautiful place surrounded by a grove of pecan trees. In later years the family died out or moved away and the house burned. The place became abandoned and to-day timber and brush cover most of the area. No road leads into the old place anymore, and by walking over half a mile thru the woods one might find the old McNair family cemetery of some thirty graves, long ago abandoned to time and the elements. Lindsey was related to the McNairs and Bushyheads as his father's first wife was from the Bushyhead family.

Lindsey's wife, Sally, was related to the Drake family on her mother's side. The Drakes were Cherokees who had a large farm south of where Highway 33 is now and their place joined the River west of them. Old man Drake also taught school, and Lindsey attended the little log schoolhouse when he was a small boy.

A close friend of Lindsey is Swimmer Henry who lives up on the flatlands east of Locust Grove. Swimmer's father was a veteran of the Civil war and the only name he had was "Swimmer". These full-blood Cherokees lived on what was once called Saugee Prairie where many Indians farmed and raised cattle. Adjoining Saugee Prairie on the east was Rowe (now called Rose) Prairie where the historic old Saline District Courthouse was located. Back in the Indian Territory days a Cherokee by name of Saugee Sanders ran a little store on this prairie and it is believed the area was named for him. This old store was located about where the present Little Rock Indian Church is now. Lindsey remembers Saugee Sanders as a big fat man and in later years he worked in Joel Bryan's store which was located about two miles north of where Locust Grove is now. That was in the time before the existence of the town of Locust Grove. Lindsey tells that when Saugee was walking home from Bryan's store one night someone waylaid him and robbed him. Wild animals, panthers and other creatures were not the only things that roamed the woods in those early days.

Little known in the history of this part of Mayes County was the first post office in the area which was called Mark, Indian Territory, which was then located a short distance north of what is known today as Sam's Corner. The post office was supposed to have been named Markham, but the efficient government did not want long names. At one time much of this area was prairie country and was known as Markham Prairie, the name taken from the prominent Cherokee family. Now most of this area is grown up in woods and brush. After a while Mark postoffice was moved three miles east where a little town by the same name once existed. Lindsey tells that there were three stores there, along with a blacksmith shop, the post office, a cotton gin, and other places of business. In that day also, about a half mile northwest was the Hogan Institute where Lindsey attended school for a while.

Sometime during the early part of the 1900s the town of Mark began to decline when it was learned that a railroad was to come thru. It was then that Locust Grove started, as did the little village of Murphy. In the original Murphy community was Ned Adair who held much land and had extensive farming operations. It is believed that Ned Adair started the first school there and also established the Adair Cemetery. The old Adair Cemetery was moved two miles east when the government built Ft. Gibson Lake.