

to feed livestock. Up until cornmeal could be bought in the stores, John remembers that they would take their corn to Bragg to have it ground. Wheat was also taken there to be made into flour.

No one knows just when a school was started in the community that became Qualls, but John tells that his father used to go to school in a log building here. The log building is still standing and is probably the oldest structure in the area. Later a frame building was built down by the store and used for many years. Then in the early 1930s the W.P.A. built the rock school house which is still standing. John recalls that some of the early teachers there were Cindy Blalock, Jencie Powers, a Miss Reed, and a Mrs. Marks. Mrs. Eubanks was the first teacher that he went to.

In earlier days the school house was used as a church during the winter. In the warm weather church services were held outside usually under a brush arbor. It was always a great day when a circuit-riding preacher could come to their neighborhood. In later years and up until about 1942 there was a church building known as Sellers Chapel a couple miles down south.

For this large area there were never many schools. He remembers that there was a school called Greenleaf, and others not too far away were Garfield, Sellers, and Pettit.

The number and size of the old cemeteries bespeak of the number of people that have lived in this part of the country. The White Oak, Sellers, and Pettit Cemeteries are the only ones in this area and they are not very large. There were two other cemeteries over in what is now the government reservation, the Hendricks and the Greenleaf, but they were moved to new locations up near Tahlequah back in the early 1940s.

In the olden days the nearest doctor was at Bragg about ten miles to the west. Then in the 1930s a Dr. Croker lived at Qualls until the war years came. In the absence of doctors, most families depended upon their own knowledge to treat sickness and injuries. As with most of the early day communities Indian doctors and midwives took care of the people.

By any measurement or standard Qualls country was not wealthy. Perhaps that is one reason few outlaws ever bothered anyone except to hide from the lawmen. John recalls as a young boy when Mose Miller became an outlaw and was finally killed in Bragg. For some reason he was brought back to this area and buried on his father's farm. Before John's time he recalls his father talking about two of his uncles, Sam and Cook Raincrow, who were outlaws and they were both killed down on Greenleaf Creek near the old district courthouse. In Territorial days their nome was in the Illinois District, and the district's courthouse was located on Salt Creek, a branch of Greenleaf Creek. He remembers his dad talking about seeing men hung there.

John has spent nearly all his life farming and enjoying the woods and hills. In earlier times he has followed hounds on fox chases, trapped all kinds of animals, and hunted every chance he had. Among his many interests is that of exploring and hunting antique articles. In his semi-retirement he rebuilds motors for antique automobiles. He and his wife have raised a good family and they are happily content in this seemingly far-away place. No doubt they are envied by some who struggle daily in the rat race of the space age.