

While the Houston brothers were still young the family moved up on Blackbird Creek, north of Gideon, where they continued their education at Shiloh School under the direction of Sam Parks, teacher.

In the early days of this century Gideon was a town. On the higher ground above Fourteen Mile Creek there were five general stores, two cotton gins, a sawmill, a gristmill, pool hall, and a doctor's office. By this size business district is evidenced the great number of people who lived in the area at one time. A lot of the land was rich and fertile and cultivation farming was carried on by many families. Mr. Houston has lived to see the town disappear, except for the little roadside store and filling station.

He recalls when harvest time came and the thrashing machines would come into Gideon Country, Double Springs, and Peggs Prairie. Bob Young and Bill Young each had steam operated thrashing machines and crews to operate them. He talks about the Parris family who lived just southwest of Gideon. This was a big family, and Jim Parris was the patriarch of the community. The Parris's contributed much to the growth of the Cherokee Nation. Among any handful of grain there seems to always be a tare or two. Blake Parris was one who lived on the rough side, and was finally killed in a knife fight in Wagoner. He tells that even his step-father, John Hicks, was on the mean side.

George remembers when he was a young fellow of seeing Uncle Coosa Thompson out in the woods hunting with his 'Humann Rifle'. Uncle Coosa lived in Gideon and was probably one of the best known men in the Cherokee Nation. The historian Emmet Starr wrote of Uncle Coosa in 1916, telling that the the decedents of this pioneer made up the largest family in Oklahoma.

The little cemetery where his father is buried was the original cemetery at Blue Springs (later known as Gideon). It will never be known how many people were buried there, but George says there were some of the Squirrel family. At one time there were stones marking each grave. A white man got hold of the land and plowed over all the graves that did not have a marker. Now only the two Houston graves remain identifiable, protected by a steel pipe fence.

In talking about his folks he mentions many of the men that lived in the generation before him. One was Isaac Houston, a lawman, who killed three men at the same time - Stevenson, Lawhorn and Mays. George proudly shows a picture of a kin, Ned Gritts, when Ned was Captain of Detectives of the Tulsa Police Dept. in 1925.

George remembers going to the old Cherokee Convention Grounds near Moodys in the early days. Of the many activities that took place, the most important was visiting old friends and relatives and making new acquaintances. Mrs. Houston always took the children for the four day meeting. George will always remember his mother telling them not to go near old man Rider, because he ate little kids.

Many are the stories of old, told of hidden and buried money. Some may be true, considering that there were no banks in the early days. George tells of an old Indian who lived near Gideon had dug up \$800 in gold coins while he was living there. Similar stories have been related to him by Lige Wilson, Sam Rattlingourd, Ned Lowrey, Jim Dobbins and others.