

Thompson family burials. Although within the boundary of the land taken for the lake, the graves were up on the side of a hill and the family refused to grant permission to move them. Of course, they were well above any predicted high water mark.

Mrs. Roberts reflects on the changes that have come to the Indians.

So many of the families and communities have been scattered through necessity of making a living, through government projects, and by environmental demands. Naturally the Indian way of life has been affected. It is becoming increasingly more difficult for many Indians to regularly attend meetings, keep in touch with friends and relatives, and to preserve adequately the native language and customs.

It is remarkable that Mrs. Roberts memory is still fresh and active.

She tells that she remembers hearing her grandparents, Dug Goodin and his wife Betsy Goodin, talk about the hard times they experienced when they came to Indian Territory from their homes in southeast Tennessee. She tells that they also knew the old Cherokee leader and statesman known as Goingsnake. Although these two grandparents do not have markers at their graves, she tells that he was buried April 24, 1911, and she died August 15, 1915. Her grandfather was buried near the old Hendren place, and her grandmother was buried close by the old Taylor schoolhouse. On her father's side of the family, her grandfather Wilson and her grandmother were both buried at Sycamore Springs, he in 1901 and she in 1913. She says that of her generation there are only three remaining of her family.

A few miles northwest of Jay is the Drowning Creek country where the center of Indian activity is at the Hillside Church and Community house. Some of the Indians who have been in that valley a long time are the Ravens, Kegs, Summerfields, Toolates, Pickups, Downings, and Whites.