

Creek. On those memorable days the Journeycakes, Adams, Sarcxie, Longbone, Washington, Ketchums, McCrackens, Campbells, Millers, Alleaf, Dushanes, Armstrongs, Johnstone, and others, gathered here.

When the Delaware moved to Indian Territory in the 1860s, John Conner was the Principal Chief. Chief Conner signed the purchase agreement with Cherokee Chief Wm. P. Ross providing for land in the Cherokee Nation for settlement of the Delawares.

J. W. Campbell and his wife Emma Journeycake Campbell established a store and home on Lightning Creek about 3 miles west of what is now New Alluwe. This establishment was in January of 1878, and about the same time a post office was put in there going under the name of Lightning Creek, Ind. Terr. In 1883 the post office name was changed to Alluwe, and has remained as such since. On the north side of Panther Creek a mile or so north of New Alluwe there once stood the home of Charles Journeycake and his wife Jane Sosha Journeycake, built in 1867. In its day their big two-story home was the showplace of the valley. Rev. Journeycake was a Baptist minister in Kansas among the Delawares, and continued to serve them when moving to Indian Territory. Rev. Journeycake established the first Delaware Baptist Church in Indian Territory at Alluwe. He was the last tribal chief of the Delawares, and with his passing functions of the tribe have been handled by the Business Committee of the Delaware Tribe.

But a place of happiness, peace, and the Indian way of life was not for long to the Delawares. About statehood time oil was discovered all across the old Delaware Nation. For some reason few if any of the Delawares profited from the discovery. The little oil boom brought the usual Anglo fortune seekers of all kinds, the good and the bad. When the first oil well was drilled in the area, there were no cars. Mr. Boyd tells that the people of the area used the oil to kill ticks on hogs, rubbed it on cattle, start fires, burn stumps, etc. Many squeaky wagon wheels were greased with that crude oil.

In the north end of the Delaware country was what has long been known as the Big Creek district. Big Creek country was not thickly settled and in that rough and swampy area lived many Negro freedmen, outlaws, and cattle ranchers. A place up there known as Blue Canyon was the favorite hideout of outlaws, train robbers, and related professionals. Early Oklahoma outlaws Al Jennings and Bob Rogers were in and out of Blue Canyon for years. Both of these gentlemen died from lead poisoning, administered by fast drawing lawmen, and both were buried in the old Ball Cemetery, an early burial place of the Delawares. Cole Younger was another outlaw of the early 1920s, and he was killed robbing a bank. They laid poor ole Cole to rest across the river in the old Taylor Cemetery. Good friend Bob Rogers was killed by the Anti-horse Thief Association. Mr. Boyd remembers when there was a ferry across the Verdigris river called Bullet Ford. As a young boy he recalls old Van Thompson ran the ferry and he used to tell him about the outlaws that came into Indian Territory and crossed on his boat headed for the Big Creek country or the Cocksom Hills.