

Joseph Beck Family graveyard near the Beck Mill, in the Row Cemetery, and in the Arcadia Cemetery.

The town of that early day country was Row. Row was more than just a country town as it had a bank, three mercantiles, a livery barn, drug store, hardware, a doctor's office, hotel, barber shop, saddle and harness shop, and other small business places. Unique in that day it had its own water system. It was in Row that Andrew's father operated a mercantile, and later Andrew also operated a general store. The town also had a fine school and two churches. The nearest towns to Row were Siloam Springs and other border towns in Ark., Jay, Pryor, and Westville, so its trade area was rather large.

Andrew is not sure how the name Row came to be used. It has been told that when they had a post office the name was suggested because the young men of the area delighted in coming to town for the sport of fist fighting, knife cutting, shooting, and related activities.

One of the original houses still standing in Row was that of Dr. Adam Lynn. Dr. Lynn was a fine man and the mentor of the community, as well as a wonderful country doctor. He was called on to treat about every disease in the book, remove bullets, sew up knife slashes, treat battered heads, amputate, dig out thorns, and soothe the wide range of hurts of the little child to the last breath of the octogenarian. He had gently pulled the sheet over the head of many people in his time. It is told that a young relative girl of Dr. Lynn was staying at the doctor's home one summer. A Beck buck from out on the prairie came into town one evening and was determined to court the lady. The doctor intervened on behalf of the girl. The young man got mad and left telling them he would return. Return he did and shot at Dr. Lynn, but hit the girl instead, killing her.

Half a mile west of Row live a family of Becks, but somehow not related to those of the prairie to the east. Of that family was a young fellow named Zeke, a good boy and a hard worker. One night from the prairie came one Homer Beck. Homer had a bad reputation, as every time he got drunk he was bent on cutting somebody up. Homer was mean when he was drinking. Adding to his troubles he was just not right mentally. For some reason while in town one night, loaded with Arkansas whiskey, he decided he would go out and cut up Zeke for a while. Zeke heard of the intention, and soon Homer showed up. Homer barged into the house looking for Zeke. Zeke had gone into another room, hoping that Homer would go away. Homer broke open the door looking for his quarry, and found him. In the meantime Zeke had slipped a .45 pistol in his belt. Homer made a slash at him and was rewarded with a large bullet hole thru his head. Zeke came up town, and got Andrew Thompson to take him to the sheriff in Jay. A hearing was held and Zeke came back home.

Of the many Indians that lived in that country Andrew remembers Henry Teehee. Henry delighted in joking. One day Andrew asked him if he had any stove wood. Henry told him, "Sure got lots of stove wood, but all still in tree." During the winter Henry always wore a big long overcoat that belonged to his wife.

Another Indian Andrew remembers was old man George Davis. George raised lots of hogs. One day Andrew went out to his place to buy a hog. Davis called his hogs up in the Cherokee language. Andrew picked out one. George let out a war whoop and grabbed the hog. Andrew says he never saw such a wrasling match in all his life, but finally Davis won out and delivered the hog all tied up.