

The little log building known as Good Hope School was one of the first schools in the area, which was rebuilt as a frame buildings around statehood. Scrougeout School was also another of the earlier schools that served the Foyil-Bushyhead area long before statehood, and was located just southeast of the village of Bushyhead. A few miles south of Good Hope was the Washington School near Dog Creek where many Indians attended, Washington School first started in a log house.

Early Indian burial grounds were established at Blackridge, Lone Prairie, and at Washington School. It was also common for families to have their burial places near their home. This has resulted in so many grave sites being completely lost as to location and those buried.

Mr. Ragsdale says he enjoyed living in the older days of Oklahoma and Indian Territory much better than now. The present days do not offer much for the Indian, especially the older ones. He mentions that long ago people raised and produced what they needed, the Indian was not bothered with a lot of taxes, and the Indian could go hunting and fishing as he wanted. Now all that changed. People would go visit friends in old days travelling in wagon, stay two or three days, enjoying friends and neighbors. No more do people take time to visit, he says. Whiteman influence has changed everything. In comparing law and order, he says they had good lawmen back when he was young man and very little trouble, not like to-day.

Early day trading centers were at Foyil and at Bushyhead. Bushyhead was most prominent town around statehood time. It was an important as a selling point for grain, and much grain was shipped out of Bushyhead in early days. Land was rich long time ago, and he remembers that oats could be sown just any manner and make 50-60 bushel to acre, but now one is lucky to get 20 bushel to acre.

Good Hope school was closed out about 1930, and Washington school was closed a few years later, removing more of the community life the Indian people loved. In older days much of the community life was centered around the school houses. The school houses were also used for church services when no church building existed. He likes to remember when the Indian preachers would travel thru the country and hold church meetings. Indians would come from long way off and camp around the church.

For some time before and after the turn of the century there existed in the Cherokee Nation the Fraternal Order of Redmen. Mr. Ragsdale says he belong to the Order first at Claremore and later at Owassa. The Order was abandoned about 1915.

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when he first came to Good Hope community there was lots of good big timber on the ridge where he lives. Large red oak and post oak were plentiful. He remembers pecan, black walnut, chinquapin growing there. Now all these are gone, nothing but little blackjack trees left. He says the acorns on Good Hope hill country not like those he knew in Adair County. He says the acorns in Adair County were good to eat.