

In her early life it was a happy time for the family when her father brought home a Gramophone, probably the grandfather of the present day hi-fi record player. She remembers the machine had a huge horn, and the records were small round cylinders.

She remembers what a wonderful man her grandfather was. He lived to be 100 years old. He attributed his longevity to drinking buttermilk and eating blackstrap molasses. He grew and made his own chewing tobacco which he used until he died. She has been asked if the tobacco finally killed him. He never wore glasses and did lots of reading. He raised 12 children.

Her grandmother was also of Cherokee blood, and had a nice home with them in Tennessee. The time had come in the Eastern states when anyone with Indian blood was looked upon as disgraceful. The family moved from Tenn. before the Trail of Tears march, foreseeing what was to come. They settled east of where the town of Stillwell is now in what was known as the Horn Community. Mrs. Tucker remembers when there was not even a house where Stillwell now stands, and her father used to coon hunt over that swampy area. At that time the nearest trading center was at Evansville and they took their grain there to be ground for flour or corn meal. On occasion they would take in their grain to the mill at Bitting Springs.

When Mrs. Tucker was born the attending doctor was Dr. Joseph Bitting, for whom Bitting Springs in Adair County is named. Dr. Bitting came from Georgia before the removal of the Cherokees, established himself in the Wauhatchie area and lived out his life there. He contributed much of himself to the comfort and medical needs of his people.

Her grandfather, Frank Early, served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War and Mrs. Tucker showed the war testament and he carried during that conflict. The little book shows its age and use. It was printed in 1858.

Also her son showed a large wooden key about six inches long, which he says has been identified as for a lock on the money chest that Marriage Strip Payment funds to Flint Court House. The key is found near the old court house grounds.

Mrs. Tucker reflects on food and cooking in the 1800s to present day. She remembers when her grandfather would use the "corn dough" the night before it was to be used, and baking sweet potatoes in the stove corner at the fireplace and kept on hand until needed. A pot of beans could usually be found at the fireplace when cooking or being kept warm. She tells of making hominy by soaking corn in wood ashes until the husk came loose. Then by rinsing and straining the hominy evolved, and was recooked for the table.

She remembers that her father traded a pair of sheep skin coats for a claim on Barren Fork Creek to one Dammberg. They built a home there and lived on the land for several years. The first home was built as a "log rolling", or "house raising day", when neighbors came on a set day and put up the house. This was a custom practiced in those days, as was lam clearing, wood chopping, plowing or a rustic activity. Whole families participated, the women preparing food for the workmen.

The Tucker moved to the ~~Bushyhead~~ area in 1894. At that time the country