

In talking about how Ketchum was named, Mr. Ward believes that it was named for a Delaware Indian named Wanega Ketchum. This old Indian was head of a small band of Delawares who lived along Grand River as early as the 1850s, and maintained a village there. These Delawares were traders and hunters and in later years moved out as they did not like to be crowded when other Indians and whitemen began moving into the country.

The forces of nature remembered Ketchum also. In 1897 a cyclone swooped down the canyon and nearly destroyed the little town. With plenty of logs and lumber available along the river in those days the town was quickly rebuilt.

Biggest change to come to the Ketchum community was the construction of Grand River Dam a few miles downstream. About 1938 the government began buying up land for Grand Lake and the advance of whiteman caused the town to be moved a mile and a half north up on higher ground. New Ketchum did not prosper as did its forerunner. At one time it did boast of nine stores and several houses, but the march of time is slowly sounding its death. When the K. O. & G railroad came thru in 1911, it did enjoy some prosperity until the railroad was removed in the 1950s.

Mr. Ward says that when he first came to this country all of the ground was rich fertile soil. He says one could grow fine corn just by pushing seed into the ground and grew more grain than they do to-day with all their modern methods.

The old Ketchum graveyard was moved in 1938 with the coming of the Lake. He believes many unmarked graves are under the lake now as many old burial grounds had lost their identity years before and few if any records were kept in the old days. However, were markers and graves could be identified they were moved to the new location on the hill just east of the town. He remembers that the early Indians of his knowledge had a burial place about four or five miles west of Ketchum on Mustang Creek that was known as the Greenfeather Cemetery, but he has not been there for many years and possibly now has succumbed to weeds and underbrush.

Chief Tom Buffington lived in the Ketchum area, and was known far and wide. The Chief was a very large man and wore a size 16 shoe. Mr. Ward remembers him as a good and kindly man, and well informed in the ways of the world and his people.