

Mr. Meigs tell that Parkhill town is one of the oldest places in the old Cherokee Nation. The town took it's name from the mountain to the south. Original Parkhill town, he says, was down near the old Murrell Home, but when the railroad came through the move was up around the depot. In it's heyday, Parkhill had general stores, hardware, drug, cotton gin, printing shop, post office and most anything could be obtained without going to another town. But after the railroad went out, and the Female Seminary burned, the town died down to where only a post office remains and the several residences continue here. Parkhill even had a doctor in those days. He was Dr. Elias Baird, who came from Tennessee and rode horseback to care for the people.

He talks about the early days of Tahlequah when there were only a few stores and hogs wallered in the middle of the streets. He can remember when there was only two stores between the Cherokee Capitol and the new Female Seminary. Neither was there any houses in this area and only a winding road led up to the school. Early day Tahlequah was not without it's shootings and killings, it's murder trials and hangings. But there was the brighter side too as witness the progress made by those early day Cherokees in their government, schools, civic interest and the building of Tahlequah town. He remembers hearing his father talk of the days much earlier than Coowee's time. His father was a sheriff at one time and they did not have the luxury of the hanging scaffold that was later built. When they caught an outlaw and tried him, and if convicted to hang, the condemned was taken out to a big tree. Standing in a wagon, a rope was thrown up over a big limb and tied to the man's neck, and the wagon driven out from under him. At least it was an improvement over methods used today and saved much of the taxpayers money and time. Even the high quality and character of outlaws puts the modern counterpart to shame. In those days Mr. Meigs says that sometimes when a man was convicted and sentenced he would be turned loose with the promise