

Mr. Ironside was born and raised in the upper Pawpaw Creek area of Wolfe Community. Mrs. Ironside is also Cherokee and was born and raised in the Estella Community. Both of these people have spent nearly all their lives in this part of Craig County, and in their late years have moved into Vinita.

At the beginning of this interview, Mr. Ironside is telling of the old Woodall Indian family who lived in their part of the country.

The Woodall place was first settled by a Shawnee family by the name of Fox. The Woodalls bought the place when the Fox family moved on farther south nearer their own tribe of people. It is on the Woodall place that Mr. Armstrong tells of hearing his Aunt Liza Woodall tell of three Mexican horse thieves who were caught and shot at her place and were buried in the little graveyard first started by the Fox family.

The little burial ground and its markers have all been long since erased by a white man who plowed up the place to plant wheat. It was known that in addition to the Mexicans, three of the Fox family and four of the Woodall family were buried there. Even before the place became a wheat field, he says that some one or more had dug around the graves looking for money. It always seemed strange that some people believed that any old grave contained money and valuables and were bent on digging into the tombs. The facts were that people of the olden days had no money to bury, and any buried money was usually that of robbers and outlaws.

Elmer does not remember, but his father had told him that he was born in a big three-room log house. When he was born, his father and a relative by name of Parker were digging coal that winter to make a living. Parker and his wife lived in one of the rooms, and the Ironsides lived in the other two rooms. Elmer grew up on the farm and attended school at Wolfe, Estella, and Contrary Schools. He worked as a cowboy