

for the Leforce Ranch for many years. This was one of the largest ranches in that part of the country covering more than ten sections of land.

In his young days he recalls that the Indians of that area would have meetings at Timpson Chapel and would stay sometimes for two weeks.

Not all time was spent in their revivals. They would have timber clearing, wood sawing, maintenance work on the chapel, fencing and maintenance on the cemetery, and other projects, but the whole effort was not unlike a family reunion which they held once a year. These gatherings afforded the only opportunity that many friends and relatives got to see each other in a year. Mrs. Ironside's father was Reverend Sam Smith. She had a story someone had made notes, that her father was the first preacher at Timpson Chapel starting in 1872, and Reverend Isaac Sanders worked with him as interpreter. Also her records show that his aunt, Eliza Buzzard Woodall, came to this part of the Cherokee Nation in 1851.

Elmer recalls some of the Indian families who lived in the area when he was a young man, and these included the Corntassels, Franklins, Duck, Downing, Bread, Doublehead, Blossom Boots, Parkers, Buzzard, Woodall, Hildebrand, Ironsides, and Vann. It was these people among many others who changed a wilderness and wild prairie into homes and farms, made roads, built schools, and opened the way for their children to have a place to live. This was all Cherokee country in those early days, inhabited by Cherokees, and they believed in all sincerity that the generations of Cherokees to come would always have a homeland. In only one or two generations the tragic turn of events have wiped out those pioneer dreams and hopes.

Elmer mentions that the engraving done in Cherokee and English on the monuments of Corntassel, Sam Bread, and Felix Downing in the Timpson Chapel Cemetery was the work of Charley Hoffmiester, a German