

not able to finish her high school education.

For many years beginning about 1920 her father Tom Eslinger operated the country store at Liberty. In those days there was a great amount of cultivation farming with cotton, corn, and wheat being the main crops. In those earlier days this was a big orchard and berry country, as well as truck gardens. In some places surghum cane was a good crop. She recalls seeing wagon loads of apples, molasses, sweet potatoes and other products passing through Liberty going to market. The Cherokees also raised lots of cattle on this grassland high country. She recalls long ago when the village of Lowrey which was located east and a little north of Liberty some seven miles was also a prosperous community. The Reed Store and the Shormley Mercantile were two of the stores that operated at Lowrey long ago. There was also a sawmill, blacksmith shop, a church, and a school there. Only the school remains now. Like Johnson Prairie, Lowrey Prairie has become nearly all cattle country.

Of the prominent families of the Liberty community fifty years ago were the Ghormleys, Rows, Johnsons, Waterfall, Williams, Redbirds, and Robins. She recalls during her young days nearly all of the people who lived in this area were Indians, and all had good farms and were hard working and industrious. Also, there were the Eli Toney, Levis, Downings, and Grant Smoke families who contributed much to the clearing and settling this part of the old Cherokee Nation.

Liberty never had a post office. At one time her father hauled mail from Moodys to Terecita in a mail hack, with stops at Lucky, Liberty, Lowrey, and all the mail boxes along the way.

Northwest of her home some three miles was Lucky School. The building still stands in the Spring Creek valley, but has been closed for many years. She tells that this is where her older sisters went to school a few years and rode an old blind horse.