

About 1815 a new school was built about a mile north of the old Lacie home. This rough frame building sat on a hill in the woods commanding a view to three directions. It was known as Morris School, and here Rufus attended for a while. This school was located on land cleared and farmed by the Musgrove family. Here William A. Musgrove settled on arrival in Indian Territory following removal from Georgia. Mr. Musgrove lived during the time 1815 to 1880, and died on his farm. High up on the hill south of the Morris School is the Musgrove Cemetery. Mr. Lacie is probably one of the few living who could locate this graveyard amid the heavy brush and undergrowth. He says that long ago there were perhaps twenty five or more graves and some had markers. Only three marble markers could be found: 1) Wm. A. Musgrove died June 7, 1880 aged 65 years, 2) Levi Lee died Oct. 30, 1890 Aged 52, and 3) George Catcher died 1890 about 45 years old. Levi Lee was one of three men killed in a gun fight at a picnic at Siloam Springs; the other two are not known but are believed to have been buried here. Rufus says that the Musgroves were closely related to the Rogers and the Mc Spaddens, prominent early day Cherokee families. Leaving the cemetery we return to the road past the old Musgrove home. This large two-story frame building was a showplace in its day, but now, like the cemetery, is abandoned and left to decay and consumption by time and the elements. None of the old family remain to witness its passing. Driving past the old Morris School, the last and present structure having been built in the W.P.A. days of native stone, Mr. Lacie looks at the empty building as if in regret and sorrow to see it passing the way of all old things. Morris School was closed several years ago, a victim of progress.

Leaving here we travel some four miles northwest. Just off the road at the edge of the woods stands an old two story big log house with a porch on the front and also on the back. A young Indian family live here. Soldier Sixkiller built the original house here and farmed the land around it. He too came with the Removal, and was born in Georgia in 1825. This frontier settlement was on the main road from Ft. Smith to the north and northwest districts and was a stopping place for travelers and stage coaches. In this area the Sixkillers, Grigsbys, Morris', and Reeds lived, worked and raised their families. Much hard work, sweat and tears went into clearing the farms out of the wilderness, but it all did pave the way for the nice farms and homes that dot the countryside to-day. These twentieth century scenes here stand as monuments to those hardy Cherokee settlers.

A short distance west of the old Sixkiller place is the family cemetery. As Rufus walks among the tombstones he talks about his mother's people. Laid to rest here is Redbird Sixkiller, Crickett Sixkiller, Frog Sixkiller, Abraham Sixkiller, William Grigsby, and many others. The clean and fenced graveyard bespeaks the cherished memory held by those still living. As we leave this old Indian burial ground, Rufus points to a little hill to the east to tell of Dennis Sixkiller who had a home there when he was a little boy. Dennis was a favorite uncle who worked with the Cherokee Nation at the Going Snake Courthouse at Strawberry Springs south of this location. At one time his father, Adam Lacie served as judge at this old courthouse of Indian Territory days. In those olden days not all matters were settled peacefully at the Going Snake Courthouse. To some it was much easier and satisfying to settle differences by squaring off and shooting it out. Shootings occurred at the Courthouse, around Christie, at the Whitmire Schoolhouse, and other places of that area. Those joining in the activities and trying to send his opponent to Kingdom Come would be from the families of Hildebrand, Beck, Kesterson, Wright, Proctor, Tanner, Whitmire, Sixkiller, and others. It would seem that each time a shooting took place Zeke Proctor was there living it up. At one such shoot out