

dates from about 1880, and was believed to have been built and operated by some of the Smoke family. Today nothing remains of this once active place except the cemetery. Most of the Indians have moved out. White people now own the farms and country estates that dot the countryside.

The Henry family were farmers and tended their fields and herds along side their neighbors. In the olden days the people raised nearly everything they needed for subsistence. They few items they could not produce they traded grain, chickens, or a cow. Such items would include cloth, matches, salt, sugar, coffee, ammunition, and the like. When a little boy, Ben tells that in season his job was to tend the tobacco patch. Picking the large vicious looking tobacco worms off the plants was a chore he disliked. Harvest time he always enjoyed, and the children always looked forward to sorghum making time. Unlike the adjoining flatlands on either side of this hill country, the soil was very sandy, but would grow just about anything planted in it, and it was easily tilled. Also from this hill country came the fine quality sandstone for building purposes. At one time the hills supplied much timber for the sawmills, but it is all gone now. Mr. Henry recalls when his father used to make railroad ties during the winter months which he would haul to Claremore to sell. His father was Joe Cy Henry, one time Sheriff of the Coo-wee-scoo-wee District. He also served a term as Solicitor.

Around the turn of the century the other nearby communities were Owala, Foyil, Sequoyan, Sageeyah, Tiawah and Bushyhead. Each of these places had its store, school, and church. Nearby schools serving the more rural areas were Justice, Ward's Grove, New Hope, and Sulphur Springs. Of the more prominent cemeteries were the Ward's Grove, Beck, Owala, Segeeyah, Jones, McCoy, Talbert, and Washington.

Mr. Henry tells of his father relating happenings at the Indian Territory Court House at Kephart Springs. Court trials in those days were not much of a burden to the tax payers. Those brought in for offenses against the law were either acquitted, whipped, or hung. Trials were usually conducted quickly, and such things as protests, mistrials, hung jury, etc. were simply not tolerated. Many cases could be heard and disposed of in a single day. Perhaps while a hanging was in progress out in the court yard, another case was underway. And they did hang horse thieves and murderers at Kephart Springs. Non-support, wife beating, and making whiskey usually drew a reprimand from the Judge. But woe be unto him accused of mistreating a good hunting dog.

Ben recalls the days when Henry Starr lived around Claremore. Starr was a smart man, but turned train and bank robber at the prime of his years. Mr. Henry recalls seeing him in Claremore one day meeting with two of his gang the day before a bank was robbed. Ben also recalls when there was only one store in Claremore and a few houses. There were times when the people of the Dog Creek country would go by wagon to Pryor Creek or Chelsea to do their trading. When the Frisco railroad was being built between Claremore and Coffeyville Ben worked on most of this section.

Gone from the American scene are many of the old implements unknown to the present generation. One of these is the horse-drawn threshing machine. The Henry family had one of these machines, and Ben used to like to ride one of the horses when the threshing was being done. An old style of working horses was in tandem, as opposed to working them abreast as we know to-day.