

Amos is one of the last of the Christies of his generation. He reflects on many things regarding his people and his race. He sits out in the yard of his place under a oak tree with a four-foot thick trunk. This old tree, recently split by lightning, has been witness to many events in its time. Amos is content to live here alone. Round about him lay his nine redbone hunting dogs. From the days when this was his father's allotment land apparently little has changed on this tranquil scene. Amos points to the dug well beside his house and tells that his father located the underground stream by "water witching".

Amos looks at his homeland nowadays with mixed feelings. Much of the area is now owned by whitemen who have changed the land so much. Across the road a crew of whitemen are cutting and baling hay on a little meadow that was once his mother's place. He says he remembers many little family cemeteries started by Cherokees long ago that have now disappeared where whitemen own the land. He mentions that John Young who was chief in his district long ago was buried near Bitting Springs Mill between the fence and the springs, but does not know if the burial place is still in evidence or not. Near his home was at one time the John Adair Cemetery, but a whiteman got the land and hauled the stones away and plowed up the cemetery. He says this cemetery had at least fifty graves as he remembers it.

The grist mill at Bitting Springs dates to a period around the Civil War or before. It has had several owners. In the 1870s Bud Long ran the mill, and in the 1880s Luke Tyner operated the mill for several years. A man by name of Taylor was another of the owners. In later years a foreigner to the Indian country by name of Golda acquired the mill, and now holds it as a historical place, charging the public to view it. Amos mentions also that at one time there was a grist mill at Eicon over on Larron Fork River. He says that when he was a young boy, Jack Christie who lived over in the Hungry Mountain country was the only man in the area who had the ability to sharpen the burrs of the mill machinery. Amos says that those who say the Bitting Springs Mill still has the original stone burrs, is in error, as the original burrs were taken out some 20 years ago.

Amos obtained nearly all of his education at Chillicothe Indian School. Before he went off to school he worked in his father's blacksmith shop and learned much of his father's skills. At the Indian school he learned the plumbers trade and later worked at various places before returning to his beloved home.

Many were the Christies of the old days in the Flint and Joinsnake District. One was Jim Christie, a survivor of the Trail of Tears, lived for a while at what is now Christie, Okla. and perhaps the community took its name from him. Others of the original Indian settlers of his country were Grand Christie, Taylor Sunday, Arch and Alex Christie. Buffalo and George Christie lived in the July Springs area not far from his home and were buried there, but this cemetery is gone now via the whiteman plow.

He says the old Wauhatchie Church used to stand close by the Little Hefner Cemetery. Long ago the church was moved to Titanic, later to be torn down and a new building put up.