

Amos related that his father had told him of an uncle who was seventeen years old when the Civil War broke out. At that time there was a grist mill somewhere west of Stilwell at the head of Caney Creek. That uncle used to go there to get corn ground. He would have to leave early in the morning to get there and the mill could only pond enough water to run until noon each day. At that time the mill was located in what was known as Hummingbird Hollow.

He remembers hearing one of his uncles tell of having to hide their hogs and cattle in the woods during the Civil War from roving bands of bushwhackers. Also they would hide other things of value. During this war period his grandfather moved all of his family into the Wauhatchie area. He relates that one time a band of 14 guerrillas rode up to their place. His grandfather hid in the barn loft where he kept shotguns loaded with buckshot. Fearing for the safety of his family he opened fire and the men left.

From stories handed down to him, he tells that before the Civil War, groups of Cherokees would make trips to the Great Salt Plains in northwest Oklahoma to bring back salt and to visit and trade with the plains Indians.

He remembers when he was a little boy the nearest place to trade was at Wauhatchie store. Later a fellow out in a store at Bitting Springs. It was in this Bitting Springs country where Ned Christie, his uncle, lived and was killed by Federal Marshalls. It was by the present name of Amos Christie that the old main road from Tanlequah to Stilwell ran in the days of the Indian Nation.

Amos remembers long ago that there was lots of fine pine timber in his area. There were many little farms the Indians had cleared out of the wilderness long ago. In the changing times, all of the good timber is gone now, as have most of the little Cherokee farms. One of the good things Amos likes to remember was the wild game in his country. It was not uncommon to see herds of as many as 20 deer. Wild turkey was plentiful, as was nearly all other kinds of game. Seldom seen now was the golden and bald eagle which were a common sight long ago around his home. Some of the favorite hunting places of the old days in his country were on Black Bear Mtn., Caney Ridge, Hungry Mtn., and Rocky Mtn.

Amos has heard his father and grandfather talk about finding gold, silver, lead, and diamonds in the Cherokee Nation. These finds were closely guarded secrets, and locations seemed to have died with the old time Indians. He remembers that during World War I his father prospected for silver and apparently found some, but the location was never revealed. He relates that one time a Cherokee friend of his related to him this account: The grandmother told the boy to go out and get some wild game. The boy found that their supply of lead for the muzzle loading rifle was exhausted. So the grandfather told the boy to wait and he would go get some lead. The old man took a hatchet and set out for the woods. The boy followed contrary to the old man's wishes. After a long walk, the boy came upon his grandfather chopping chunks of pure lead out of the