

George was born and raised at Peavine in Adair County, but has traveled much in his time. He has worked in Colorado, Wisconsin, California, and visited among many Indian tribes across the country particularly with the Cherokees in North Carolina. When he was young it was not easy to make a living grubbing in the flint rocks around Peavine, and probably for that reason spent a lot of time away from home. He reflects on the hard times the Cherokees must have had when they were brought to Indian Territory from Georgia, and the east about 1840. The Indians were herded to the Arkansas line and literally dumped onto the Indian Territory to make it the best they could. Making a crop that first year was a work few other peoples have experienced. The ingenuity of the Indians showed in many ways, such as oxen pulling home-made plows (called Georgia stocks), planting little garden spots with nothing but home-made hoes and rakes fashioned from hickory, hunting out and using the many edible wild plants, roots and berries. George tells that he has used the Georgia stock, cradle for cutting wheat, and other implements that were antiquated before some of the generations of to-day were born. As the Cherokees built and progressed their Nation their natural talents helped much to speed their settlement. Examples of fine stonework still stand to-day done by early Cherokees. The axe was no stranger to the Indians as evidenced by some of the log houses still remaining and in use to-day. Not the least of their trades was that of blacksmithing. George tells of still having a horseshoe that was custom fitted for a horse with an abnormal frog. He tells also that oxen was widely used in the old days. A team of oxen did not have harness as we would know it now, but merely a yoke and chains or rope. Many of the old timers preferred using oxen as they could out-pull horses by far.

Reflecting again on the old days at the Cherokee Male Seminary, he tells that in 1903 he watched Claude Duncan, Claude Mitchell, J. B. Johnson and Saugee Sanders received their graduation diplomas. Of the eleven graduating in 1904 he remembers there were Andrew Learskov, Richard Holland, Houston Ballard, Clarence Markham, William McClellan, Oliver Woods, Richard Smith, and Samuel J. Starr.

The Illinois River held much attraction for the boys attending the Seminary in his day, and many would desert their books and run off to the river to swim, fish, or just lay on the bank and enjoy the day. It was for this reason that he was finally suspended from the school. After that he went to the Baptist Mission in Tahlequah. Little has changed in George's attitude and outlook on life as he has always been free and independent - a quality possessed by most Indians. Even to-day he is looking forward to attending a big Indian singing near Westville later in the month.