

At one time Perkins was recognized as a cross-roads village with two stores, a blacksmith shop, and a school. Only the little country store remains now to represent the village of Perkins. At one time years ago much of the valley on either side of Perkins was cultivation farming. Mr. Harris says he never thought he would live to see the time come when farming would be replaced entirely by stock raising.

In riding over some of the Bayou Manard country we stop on a little wooded hill to visit an old abandoned cemetery. Hardly had we entered the woods when we were accosted by a man. The man recognized Mr. Harris as a neighbor. The stockmen in that area to-day are very skittish and inquisitive of strange cars and people riding around. And for good reason too, for in just the past two weeks 14 head of cattle had been taken by cattle rustlers. That is one activity that does not seem to have changed in the past 100 years. A difference between the two eras would be that more horses were stolen than cattle, as people had more need for saddle and work stock than cows.

In looking at some of the old abandoned cemeteries, Mr. Harris says he has often thought about his grandfather, John P. Harris, who died in the old Skin Bayou District, perhaps near Sallisaw before the Civil War. He has never learned where he was buried or any of the circumstances about his death, except that maybe he was a victim of a small pox epidemic. His father was Alfred Harris, who lived in the Webber Falls country most of his life. In his late years he farmed some on Bayou Manard, and died there at the age of 84 years.

Up about the mouth of Bobtail Creek we stop to look at the site of the Eureka Store and nearby blacksmith shop of Indian Territory days. Nothing remains now of this once little country trading post. A faint trace of the old road that came from the Wagoner country, by way of Taylor Ferry, headed toward Tahlequah, can still be seen. Old Man Bob Moss put in this store and a man by name of Corderay ran the blacksmith shop here before statehood. Mr. Moss was a trader-man, for after a few years at Eureka he sold out and put in a store at Gabriel. He did not stay there very long until he sold out and put in a store at Manard. Nothing can be seen now of the place once known as Manard, but it was located on the creek about a mile east of where Perkins is now.

The site of old Eureka is now owned by Kenneth Guinn. He takes us on foot back of his house and across Bobtail Creek to where the early day family of Corderay used to have their home. In a little abandoned family cemetery remains to tell of this prominent Indian family. The last burial there according to the tombstones was in 1890.

About a half mile east of Perkins is the old Jim French place. Jim French was a well known Cherokee before and after the Civil War. Adjoining the old French place was the equally old Wilson place. Perhaps before another generation comes the last remaining evidence of the French-Wilson places will be gone. This factor is of the remains of what was their cemetery. Possibly five or six graves can still be determined among three big old trees. There were many more at one time, but the plow has removed all sign of them years ago. Three of the graves at one time had all-marble vaults placed over the graves. These three burials were in 1850, 1851, and 1858. In only a short time now the trees, stones, and other features of this burial place will be removed in the name of improvement.