

Ausley Welch

-3-

Along the Beatie Creek and Beatie Prairie country Mr. Welch recalls some of the places and peoples he has known. Panther Hollow Church was one of the old meeting places of Indians, as was Sycamore Springs. Up on the flatlands, Sam Lowrey ran a trading post. Mr. Welch tells that there is a cove on Beatie Creek where a type of fern stays green all year long. This is the country of the families of the Cheater, Bucket, Trottingwolf, Leach, Cornshucker, Parchcorn, Buckskin, Stu-di, Goodmoney, Mouse, Sapsucker, Birdchopper, Foreman, and many others. This was the home country of John Watermelon, a mentor and patriarch of his people. The three brothers of the Half family lived in this country - Tom, Jake, and Green. They were half Cherokee and half Delaware. It is said they were involved in some killings and they left that country and went west across the Grand River.