

In the search for Indian history, northeast Adair County probably has as much as any other similar place in Oklahoma. It was in this area that several contingents of the Cherokees brought by the Federal Army were released in their 'new home'. The towns of Watts, Westville, Ballard, Proctor, Baron, and Christie came into being as the Cherokee Nation progressed. However, for many years following the year 1839 there were no towns in this part of the Nation, and trading was done at Tahlequah, Indian Territory, or at the Arkansas towns of Cincinnati, Siloam Springs, Dutch Mills, Evansville, or Cane Hill. Old timers have referred to that north-south strip of country embodying eastern edge of Indian Territory and western Arkansas as "Lapland", that is, for economic and social reasons they closely overlapped one another. This woodland country of rolling hills is where Mrs. Bagby was born, and where she has spent nearly all of her life.

In early days the area around her home was known as 'Pigeon Roost', given that name in the days when the now extinct Passenger Pigeons came to roost in the trees west of the old family home. She has heard her grandparents tell of seeing the pigeons so thick that their weight would break the branches of the trees. When the white man learned that the pigeons could be sold to the eastern meat markets, they soon put a stop to the birds' existence. The last known passenger pigeon died in the St. Louis Zoo in 1913.

Many Indians still live in Adair County, but they are being crowded out as the years go by. Great areas of northwestern Adair County are now owned by foreign ranchers and cattlemen. Sometimes the only car tags to be seen in those areas are those from Texas. According to a county land owner map, one cattleman owns some 36 sections of land, all joined together, and all heavily posted and fenced. It is beyond