

FAMILIES OF THAT AREA

Mr. Long recalls some of the old families that have lived in this part of the country, and some of them were Jim Richards, Mike Keys, Rube Smith, Jim Coleman, Bill Pickard, Charley Rattlingourd, Goback Christie, Lacie Wolfe, Dow Willis, Joe Thornton, Luke Fyner, Whittingtons, Clays, Wilhites, et al.

COMMUNITIES—FIRST STORE IN ELDON STILL OPERATED BY SAME FAMILY

Of the old time establishments there is Eldon. The Hitchcocks built the first store there and it is still operated by the family. Even before the Frisco Railroad came through that valley in 1902 there was a grist mill down on the banks of Baron Fork River, and in about 1910 the Hitchcocks put in a store just north of the railroad. The advent of the railroad running from Fayetteville, Arkansas to Tahlequah and on west to Muskogee was one thing that changed a lot of that country. For nearly forty years the Frisco trains operated across this part of the Cherokee Nation. Depots and station stops were at Westville, Adalilee, Robins, Christie, Proctor, Eldon, Welling and on to Tahlequah. The people came to depend on the railroad for transportation, freight-ing supplies to village stores, and hauling freight out. The fine timber in those hills was the attraction that brought the railroad in the early days. After the country had been drained of its timber the railroad finally quit, leaving the people, who had helped make it a success, high, dry, and poor. No one in these generations now will ever see it again become a good timber country. In the northern part of Adair County Mr. Long tells of a place called Oil Springs. There are two springs at this location, one of them giving forth with good clear water and the other produces an oily water. Long ago there used to be a school and a little store there, as well as a little cemetery. Nothing remains now but the abandoned cemetery.