

T-312-1

Andrew Crittenden, Cherokee

Andrew Crittenden, 60-year-old full blood Cherokee, Lost City Community, Cherokee County, Oklahoma.

The Crittenden family is one of the oldest pioneer settlers in the Cherokee Nation. The Crittenden District of Indian Territory dates from establishment of the Cherokee Nation. Andrew was born and raised in this community, and except for periods when he attended Indian Schools, has lived here all of his life.

Where recording picks up, Andrew tells of the establishment of their present Church - Swimmer Church built in 1894, and is referred to locally by Indians as Se-Quo-Wi Church. It is the center of their religious and community life.

Present day Keener Church at Lost City was originally an all Indian Church called Cochran Church. Today with the encroachment of whiteman, the Indians are going elsewhere.

At one time Lost City was a little town with a store, blacksmith shop, school, churches, several houses, etc. Now, the only active establishment is the public school. Originally this little place was called Cochran. When the first school was built there, in searching for a name for the school it was decided to call it Lost City School, due to the fact it was so far removed from other existing towns. The name held and the town became known as Lost City rather than Cochran.

Tending small farms was the life lead by nearly all of the Indian along 14-mile Creek which winds through this community. Compared to other communities in the Indian Nation this area has not suffered from the changes made by whiteman progress. Except for road improvement, Mr. Crittenden tells