

The John Ross home was first a wedding present to his wife given in the 1840s. It is this home place the Ross family and the Nintons have lived for over a hundred years. It is located at the southeast edge of the town of Parkhill. The original large log house had been skillfully built and finished in fine workmanship. The foundation still is visible. The structure had always been kept repaired and in good order. The grounds were neat and clean. The old house burned in 1950, and Mattie built a small house on the location for herself where she lives to-day. In its day the old Ross home saw many prominent Cherokees come and go in the matter of transacting business. Many births, deaths, marriages, and funerals took place there.

The old log house saw sad times too. Bitterness among the Indians prevailed as a result of the removal from the east. There were times when Cherokees killed each other over the matter. The advent of the Civil war separated many of the Cherokees and this brought on more killings. Mattie tells that in 1853 some of the opposition came to the Ross home. Her grandfather George Kave tried to get away from the "bushwhackers", as they were called, and ran out the back hallway. He was shot while climbing over the fence. The unfriendly then set fire to some cotton on the front porch, and then went back of the house to stab her grandfather several times. During this time the women folk, including her grandmother put the fire out. At this time a seventeen year old boy by name of Robert Kays hid in the fireplace chimney and escaped being killed.

Her mother bought out the Ross heirs in 1897, which later became her Indian allotment. Mattie inherited her mothers land which joins her own allotment. here she says she was born, lives, and intends to live out her time.