

Not too far north of Beron is the Indian Baptist Mission Church. This historic place marks the end of the Trail of Tears, and stands as a silent monument to a great people. Much can be said of this end of a march, the hope of a people, or the ultimate failure of a plan for a minority, but it has already been written and recorded.

Still in use next to the Wright home is another Indian built house over a 135 years old. This original log house was built by some of the Adairs. In recent years the outside of this house has been covered with modern siding, but the original structure remains.

Mr. Wright followed his father in serving the community as coffin maker and undertaker, long before modern day embalming came into use. Upon the death of a neighbor in those early days friends provided what was necessary in properly burying the dead. This custom has already passed away, along with many of the ways of life known to the peoples of an earlier day. Well known of the old burial grounds and graveyards are the Downing Cemetery, Ali Deer Graveyard, Peavine Cemetery, and Starr Cemetery in that area. Many Indians had family graveyards, but many of these have lost their identity through neglect, removal of markers, or plowed over by whiteman.

Mr. Wright tells that in early 1900s, there was a meeting held at a schoolhouse near Christie. A disagreement between the Procter and the Beck factions came up. In settling the matter, he relates that seven men ended up dead, with most of the Becks killed in the gun fight. The case was to be tried at Goingsnake Courthouse located at Strawberry Springs near Christie, but the case was never completed for lack of complaining witnesses and convicting evidence.

The town of Christie was named for John Christie, early day Indian leader of the Goingsnake District. The town enjoyed some prosperity in its day, having had the Frisco railroad go thru, placing a freight and passenger depot there. A sawmill and cotton gin then had a good shipping outlet for their products. The usual small stores, mercantiles and shops were in existence at one time. Little remains today to indicate that a little town once stood and flourished one day. John Christie's wife was a Starr, a sister of Tom Starr. Mrs. Tom Starr was Mr. Wright's grandmother.

Another of the early day Indian communities that has passed on is Addielea, once once a little village on the Frisco railroad in northern Adair County. Although completely disappeared now, it was once important to the community for its country stores, postal services, and train service.

At the turn of the century the K.C.S. railroad moved its roundhouse from Stilwell to Watts. This move made the town of Watts, but at the same time it spelled the end of another very old Indian settlement, that of Ballard. It is interesting to-day to still the two daily passenger trains pass on the K.C.S., while nearly all other such trains in Oklahoma have long since made their last run. Time is running out for the once familiar scenes, and one day soon the K.C.S. passenger trains will only be a memory.