

He tells about the ways Indian land ownership is being reduced by land owning white man. He dont understand why a whiteman can own a 1000 acres of the Cherokee Nation and the Indian is basically limited to 20 and 40 acre patches of rocks. Even in acquiring land from Indians, the whiteman is always setting the conditions and promoting the deals. He reveals his own experiences in land matters, which resulted in him being completely surrounded by whiteman. Even now he wonders why they call it Indian Nation.

He recalls a long time ago when O. K. Chandler was an Indian Agent, as well as an Indian himself, helped his father with information in growing better corn and cotton.

The family spent lots of time making cross ties to supplement their living. Bert has spent nearly all of his life in the woods country, and has spent very little time away from this deep woods country.

Bert remembers that the first school he went to was 2 1/2 miles from his home, called I-X-L, and later called Sandy Grove. The old school disappeared a long time ago. Around 1918 he went to Wyanahotte Indian School, thru the encouragement of Mr. Chandler. He tells about the train ride from Locust Grove to Wyanahotte, and being met by Henry Long. He stayed there a while years. He remembers when Armistice was signed in 1918 when he was there in school. It was said that he learned to speak English.

He tells about encouraging his children to stay in school.

He tells about the trouble he had in trying to keep his children in the schools at Onitocco, and that he has discriminated against them when they were turned away. He says the government dont hesitate to take the Indian boys for the army and let them get killed, but when Indian wants to get education, government turns head away and dont hear. But he recalls, the Indian by nature just dont say much, knowing he will probably loose anyway, which is old story to Indian.

His father, John Spade, was a prominent Indian Preacher in the country in his time.

His grand father was with the Trail of Tears, and never remembered seeing his father or mother. Maybe he thinks they died during the removal.

He mentions some old Indians in the area - Elisa Rigeon, Ned Lowrey, Noah Beck, and John R.

He tells about starting Indian Community work at Bull Hollow, and on in arts and crafts activities.