

In her early life it was a happy time for the family when her father brought home a Gramaphone, probably one grandfather of the present day hi-fi record player. She remembers the machine had a huge horn, and the records were small round cylinders.

She remembers what a wonderful man her grandfather was. He lived to be 106 years old. He attributed his longevity to drinking buttermilk and eating blackstrap molasses. He grew and made his own chewing tobacco which he used until he died. She has been asked if the tobacco flavorally killed him. He never wore glasses but did lots of reading. He raised 12 children.

Her grandmother was also of Cherokee blood, and had a nice home and farm in Tennessee. The time had come in the western states where anyone with Indian blood was looked upon as disgraceful. The family moved from Tenn. before the Trail of Tears march, foreseeing what was to come. They settled east of where the town of Stillwell is now in what was known as the Horn Community. Mrs. Tucker remembers when there was not even a house where Stillwell now stands, and her father used to coon hunt over the swampy area. At that time the nearest trading center was at Evansville and they took their grain there to be ground for flour and corn meal. On occasion they would take their grain to the mill at Zitting Springs.

When Mrs. Tucker was born the attending doctor was Dr. Joseph Zitting, for whom Zitting Springs in Adair County is named. Dr. Zitting came from Georgia before the removal of the Cherokees, established himself in the Wauhillau area and lived out his life there. He contributed much of himself to the comfort and medical needs of his people.

Her grandfather, Frank Early, served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War and Mrs. Tucker showed the small Testament which he carried during that conflict. The little book shows its age and usage. It was printed in 1858.

Also her son showed a large metal key, some six inches long, which he says has been identified as for a lock on the money-chests that carried Strip Payment funds to Flint Cornthouse. The key is found under the old court house grounds.

Mrs. Tucker reflects on food and cooking in the 1800's to present day. She remembers when her grandfather sold the "corn dogger" the night before it was to be used, and baking sweet potatoes in the same manner at the fireplace and kept them warm. A pot of beans could usually be found at the fireplace after cooking or being kept warm. She tells of taking nothing but soaking corn in wood ashes until the husk came loose. Then by rinsing, straining and boiling evolved, and was recooked for the table.

She remembers that her father traded a pair of sheepskin sets for a claim on Barren Fork Creek to one Bonneberg. They built a home there and lived on the land for a few years. In 1840 house was built as a "log rolling", or "house raising day", where neighbors came on a set day and put up the house. This was a custom practiced in those days, as was land clearing, wood chopping, fanning or working activity. Whole families participated, the women preparing food for the workers.

The Tucker moved to the Brushyhead area in 1894. At that time the country