

morning they got up at daylight and says the trees over on the hillside across the creek were just a-popping. The commotion was from wild turkeys. He says the hillside was just black with turkeys, and you could not even begin to count them. The first year they tried to make crop, and the turkeys would come and eat up the corn before it got knee high. He tells also that bobcats were everywhere. Added to this apparent primitive area were wild hogs. These hogs were unlike any he had seen, tall and lean with high shoulders and small hindquarters, large heads, with three and four-inch tusks. They were vicious and dangerous. His father had some friends come with rifles and they killed them out. After a while his grandfather got some hounds to help kill out the bobcats, as he says of the bobcats nothing was safe around them, and they made a terrible racket at night with their squawling and fighting. In that valley there were some places where brambles, vines, and thickets were so dense that a man could not get through them. Such places harbored all kinds of nature's creatures. There must have been many parallels and like areas in the settlement of early Oklahoma, and to those hardy pioneer families one can only have respect and admiration.

In early Indian Territory days a Smith family of Cherokees settled on what was later called Rowe Prairie. One of the Smith's was a preacher starting ministry in a brush arbor. On that site was later built Smith Chapel, a rough lumber structure that stood for many years. Still later a school house was built at the location bearing the same name. Though the school still stands, it is no longer used, and now a white family has made it a home. The steady and engulfing advance of whitemen have taken much of Rowe (or Rose) Prairie and the Indians have been pushed farther back in the surrounding woodlands. The community of Smith Chapel is now all white people. As the fine ranch and retirement homes progressively spot Rose Prairie, it is a safe wager they are not Cherokee homes. The Cherokees entertain and respect many beliefs, even unto gambling.