

In the days of long ago when the Cherokee Nation functioned on its own, they operated and maintained the Negro Seminary a short distance up the creek from the Double Springs community. This institution was well attended and provided good educational facilities for children of the freedmen. Nothing remains now of this seminary, and it is not known if any are still living who went there.

The community of Double Springs contained many of the old families who settled here at the beginning of the Cherokee Nation. Some of these families are the Johnsons, Grease, Blackbird, Grasshopper, Dry, Swimmer, Shade, Keener, Ratliff, and Vann. This community never had a trading post as did many of the early settlements. When in need of supplies the people went to Tahlequah, Gabriel, or Gideon in the days of Indian Territory.

In John's young days he says that he never got to go to school 'to amount to anything.' One reason was because they lived five miles from the nearest schoolhouse. His mother taught him to read and write a little, and his father taught him all he knows about farming. In spite of this difficult start John has lived to be a successful farmer and has raised a good family.

Mr. Dry recalls the days when cattle buyers would come thru the country. Blue Keys, a Cherokee, was one of these cattlemen and would come by the Dry home often to buy cattle or just to stay all night. It was from Mr. Keys that John learned some of the tricks and ways of the cattle buyer. When John was a little boy he recalls that his mother made yarn from sheeps wool. He tells that she had a large spinning wheel, and would sit at night carding wool to make yarn to knit clothing for the family. There were times when his mother also used cotton to make yarn. He says