

Ft. Gibson has not changed too much except for some of the old buildings being removed and street improvements. Of course there are more people there now. But in her early days there were many soldiers at Ft.

Gibson. For those people living on the north and west side of Grand River a ferry operated to carry traffic into Ft. Gibson. There were times however, when Grand River could be forded with team and wagon. The Three Forks country was in the rich fertile bottom land and at one time great fields of cotton, corn, and oats were grown. Before Okay grew up, the people took their farm products to Ft. Gibson to sell and trade. To the early day families the grist mill at Ft. Gibson was important, and it was the only one in their district, where they could take their corn and other grain to be ground.

The Iron Mountain Railroad runs across the west end of Miss Rogers farmland. About two miles down the railroad to the southeast was the homesite of Samuel Houston. This historic place was located on a hill not far from the river. Miss Rogers remembers when she was a small girl the old log house was still standing and the dirt road to Ft. Gibson ran very near the place. Nothing remains today of this early day home and establishment, and only a little grove of black locust trees mark the site.

She speaks of the ways long ago when it was a common thing for friends and neighbors to take in orphans and raise them, which she and her sister have done. Also, in the days long before rest homes and nursing homes, the old folks were always well cared for whether by their families or others.

She recalls the times when they would cut and dry apples, peaches and other fruits. She says that during drying time the roof of the sheds and cellars would all be covered with drying fruits and vegetables.

They raised different kinds of corn. One kind was for hominy, another kind for making what they called 'sunkata', and still another kind