

ROSS, ELIZABETH

MURRELL SPRING.

#7625

432

ROSS, ELIZABETH.

MURRELL SPRING.

7625.

September 23, 1937.

Murrel Spring.

The Murrell Spring is the principal source of the stream which is usually called the Park Hill Creek.

Old-time people referred to it as "the branch". The first person to build a home the in/vicinity of the spring was a man named McCoy, who was a Western or Old Settler

Cherokee citizen. It was early in the decade of the thirties of the last century, so far as known, that the McCoy home was built, a building composed of logs. Nearly all early-day houses were made of logs, sawmills being unknown.

In course of time the house and whatever improvements existed were sold by McCoy to George M. Murrell who arrived in 1839 with Cherokees who arrived from Georgia in that year, Mr. Murrell as has been related, liked the site of the pioneer's home very well and acquired the property soon after reaching the locality.

After the passage of several years a good-sized spring-house composed of brown sandstone was built over and just below the spring. The main spring was protected

ROSS, ELIZABETH.

MURRELL SPRING.

7625.

2

by an extension of the roof of the spring-house and through the stone building the water flowed steadily, day and night.

The creek into which the surplus waters flowed was, in long bygone years, well populated with fish and many years later men who had been boys during the forties and fifties of the last century related interesting stories concerning their fishing along the stream.

The Park Creek contained several rather deep stretches of water at places below the Murrell Spring. Forest trees grew along the banks of the stream its entire length, and it was in the deeper water that fish were more numerous.

There was once a mill in the vicinity of Murrell Spring, but not a water power grist mill such as was found in other sections. The Murrell mill was operated by a tread-wheel. A pair of oxen were placed in a box-like enclosure and walked steadily for some time, getting nowhere, but causing the simple machinery to operate.

ROSS, ELIZABETH.

MURRELL SPRING.

7625.

3

Those who may have gained the impression that a grist mill was once operated near the spring were mistaken. The old building in which could be seen the large wooden wheel which once furnished motive power to the machinery stood until a number of years after the Civil War came to a close.

Where the extension joined the spring house walls, there was a space above the walls which was covered with pine planking, painted white. Upon this planking there were to be seen many names written by persons who stopped at the spring for water during a number of years. Some of those who, with lead pencils, left their names on the white surface were from distant sections, included being several who probably belonged to military organizations which passed along the road in the period of the Civil conflict.

The old spring house yet stands, but the road does not now lead by the spring, the road being built after

ROSS, ELIZABETH.

MURRELL SPRING.

7625.

4

Statehood on a section line a short distance north of
the spring.

Note: The field worker was born and reared in the
Park Hill vicinity and much of the lore of the lo-
cality became a part of her early education and
many of her manuscripts therefore, are legends and
events from her personal knowledge.