

A TOWN OF THE OLD INDIAN DAY

This is an old Indian town located on the Missouri-Kansas and Texas railroad, about 11 miles north of Atoka, Oklahoma. (It was first called Co. in 1870 on account of several springs that are located east and around this town. It dates back to 1840 when the Choctaws migrated to this country. They first settled and most of them located or colonized at this place or at Brokenville near what is now Fort Gibson, Oklahoma, in Choctaw County.

There was no town or buildings of this kind when the Choctaws came here. There being several springs scattered around these hills that when these people came, they camped and colonized and lived near this spring until most of them moved twelve miles east and settled and made their homes there. This was also an emigrant road that ran between Fort Smith and Denison, Texas, that the travelers traveled on this road and very often this was their camping ground. At

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present there are springs of ever flowing water bubbling out of these springs at several different places in the vicinity.

The chief spring where the Choctaws and the travelers camped while making their journey is now the property of Joe Garside, who has the spring walled with cement and fenced. This was once the chief camp ground of the olden days. It was known as Springtown at that time, but now known as Stringtown. The reason for changing the name I do not know.

There are three cemeteries located at this place. One location for the whites, which is about one mile east of town, but on account of the distance and bad road, it was changed to another location on the west side of town and five acres were de-ded to the town for a cemetery. The negroes have their cemetery on the west side of town.

Stringtown is an old sawmill town, and there is a planer mill which is still in operation and manufactures several thousand feet of lumber daily. There is a crusher mill also located here which puts out several thousand car loads of gravel every year.