

HUMMINGBIRD & BIGBY.

REGISTERED LANDMARKS.

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PREHISTORIC LANDMARKS, MISSION SITES AND
INDIAN SCHOOLS.

This part of the country that we are going to describe was recommended to us by some of the old people in this part of Adair County. The part of the country now in question is located in about seven sections, in the center almost, of Adair County.

The first thing that we are going to describe as best as we know are the prehistoric landmarks that are to be found in Section 36, near the present village of Baron. According to the old timers living in this vicinity, they have been told by their forefathers that these landmarks were already here when they came with the emigrants in the second drive, in 1838.

Most of these Cherokees who came in this drive settled in this part of Adair County. The country is located so that these landmarks are on a high hill on the south side of the Barren Fork Creek. There are about one hundred mounds at this place. They seem to be the old homes of some Indians. There are two types of arrowheads to be found at this place.

The arrowheads vary in size from about an inch to three inches. They are all made of flint rock. According to Bill Downing an old Cherokee as told to him by his father when he came from North Carolina and lived near this place, there were several heads of buffaloes found around these old camp places. It seemed to him at that time that the Indians had been there recently. The camp sites were still freshly abandoned.

The country is a hilly country to the south from this old camp site, but across the Barren Fork Creek on the north it must have been a prairie. There are no large trees and it seems there were never any. A story told by Eli Wright and John Chewey, old settler Cherokees who came here ten years earlier than did the emigrants and settled about seven miles east on the same creek, was that there was some tribe of Indians who came to this part of the country every Winter. He also stated that in the Fall of the year large herds of deer would go in droves; that was in November. These herds would come to the cane fields, that is, wild cane in the creek bottoms. The buffaloes would sometimes

come also. About three years after the old settlers came there were thousands of them came to this part of the country. The Cherokees at that time did not know what a buffalo was and they were afraid of them. There were not any of them back in their eastern home.

After the coming of the emigrants these buffaloes visited this part of the state. There was one killed here in this community on Shell Branch, near where the town of Westville is now.

At this prehistoric landmark in this community no one knows what tribe of Indians lived or camped here every year. It is supposed by some they were the Caddoes. The arrowheads found at these places resemble those of the Caddoes.

Barren Creek at this place at one time was thick with cane brush. There is still cane to be found along its banks. Some think that this cane was what brought the Indians here, for the wild animals lived on this green cane all winter. The buffaloes came from the West on the prairie and came East for the winter. The Plains Indians came along with the buffaloes. They also found deer in this part of the

country. Fish also was found in abundance in the creeks in this part.

When the emigrants came here the Barren Fork Creek was the home of all kinds of fish. This was another reason why the Western Indians visited this part of the country, they were fond of wild meats.

There are also signs that some European explorer had been here at some time. About three miles to the west of these mounds there is a range of mountains, called the Walkingstick Mountains.

On the extreme north end of these mountains there are some writings on rocks that are supposed to have been written before the coming of the Cherokees. Jim Walkingstick, an old emigrant, settled and claimed all the land on this mountain. He told some old timers of his time that this writing was discovered soon after coming here. They knew it was not Cherokee after the Cherokee alphabet was invented. It is not English. Some seem to think it is Spanish. There are two places to be found where there are marks on this mountain.

When the emigrants came they established them a mission near the village of Baron. The mission was located on the banks of this creek on a high cliff about a hundred yards east of where the Peavine Creek flows into Barren Fork. The early missionaries are not known at this time but there are people still living who saw the building. It was of log construction with only one window. This was the early school for the Cherokee children. Hyder Downing went to school here. Ed Walkingstick also attended this school.

When the Civil War broke out this school was abandoned. The employees' quarters were located on the hill southwest of the school. There were about three buildings that housed the employees. ~~The place and the same~~ site where Mr. Howell now lives was where the quarters were located. After the war the building was still standing but it was never opened for school but once and it only remained as a school just for three or four years. It was closed then and the building decayed.

The same time that this mission was established there was also established at Stute Walkingstick's place

on the hills east of this place, a Government commissary. This commissary remained for three years to feed the Cherokees until they could make crops and get started. A blacksmith shop was also established at the old Ed Clyne's place. The commissary and the blacksmith shop were both taken away at the same time. Most of the Cherokees who settled this part of the Cherokee Nation were of the Bird Clan of Cherokees.

At this old mission site there is an old cemetery of some of the Cherokee children who died while in school at this old place. When the Kansas City Southern Railroad came through the Cherokee Nation this old site was partly destroyed. It is now on the right-of-way of said railroad. The cemetery was also destroyed by said railroad. A long bridge across the Barren Fork is just about forty yards north of this old site.

The family who settled adjoining this old mission was named Ta-Cha-Nee-Skee.