

THE MOVE NORTH TO ARCHER, WILBARGER, CLAY AND GREER COUNTIES

As they (the Ikard traildrivers) went up the trail (to Wichita with their herds), they made note of the country through which they passed. They sold their holdings in Parker County and went north. Uncle Will settled near Henrietta in Clay County. Uncle Elisha acquired what at one time was Greer County, Indian Territory. It was the part of Oklahoma between the Red River and the North Fork of the Red River in southwest Oklahoma. He acquired this from the state of Texas as at the time the area was thought to be in Texas. Everyone knew that the Red River was the Texas-Oklahoma border, but it evidently had not been settled which river was the Red River. At any rate, it was bargained for from the state of Texas and paid for. For a number of years it was stocked with cattle and horses belonging to the Ikards. Uncle Will had settled near Henrietta, but ran cattle in the Indian Territory for years, with the consent of the Indians. He paid Quannah Parker, chief of the Comanches, \$100 per month for years and furnished the Indians all the beef they needed. Elisha finally sold his holdings in Greer County to an English company for \$1,500,000 - land, cattle, horses, and all.

Not too long after the English company purchased Greer County, the Congress of the United States decided that Greer County belonged in the Indian Territory. So the company disposed of its horses and cattle and was reimbursed by the United States for the error.

My father's people, Lafayette and his family,

moved to Wilbarger County, Texas, stayed for several years, and then went over into Oklahoma and filed on land near Cloud Chief, Oklahoma. They sold out and left there in 1895 as Upton, my father's brother, was killed accidentally in 1894. The accident occurred as he and some young folks were going to a party. He was carrying a small pistol in his pocket, and when he leaned over in the saddle, the hammer evidently struck the saddlehorn, discharging the pistol and shooting him in the thigh. He bled to death before proper help could be summoned. This disheartened the whole family, as he was more or less the head of the family at the time. His father was crippled and his brother Bob was working for Waggoner at the time. They moved back to Texas where all of the girls were able to go to school at Bowie, Texas. Three of them became telegraph operators and one was a stenographer. All were able to hold jobs and take care of their crippled father with the help of Sully and Bob. Milton went to Archer County and worked with some of his cousins in the cattle business.