

### **Notice of Copyright**

Published and unpublished materials may be protected by Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code). Any copies of published and unpublished materials provided by the Western History Collections are for research, scholarship, and study purposes only.

Use of certain published materials and manuscripts is restricted by law, by reason of their origin, or by donor agreement. For the protection of its holdings, the Western History Collections also reserves the right to restrict the use of unprocessed materials, or books and documents of exceptional value and fragility. Use of any material is subject to the approval of the Curator.

### **Citing Resources from the Western History Collections**

For citations in published or unpublished papers, this repository should be listed as the Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

An example of a proper citation:

Oklahoma Federation of Labor Collection, M452, Box 5, Folder 2. Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

BALLARD, EDNA

INTERVIEW

13808

335

BALLARD, EMMA - INTERVIEW

13808

Elizabeth Ross  
Investigator  
May 2, 1938.

Recollections by Mrs. Emma Ballard.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mrs. Emma Ballard lives in her home, which her husband, Mr. Calvin Ballard, built nearly thirty years ago, at 439 North 14th Street, in the city of Muskogee. With Mrs. Ballard, her daughter, Mrs. Maud Bushnell, makes her home. When this residence was first built it was so far out from the center of town, that Mrs. Ballard was reluctant to make this place her home. It seemed as if she were removing to the country, but at this period, 1938, Muskogee has grown to such an extent that 14th Street is considered close to the business center

In 1899, John Downing Benedict, of Illinois, was appointed Superintendent of Schools in Indian Territory. His term of service began in February of that year. Four supervisors were appointed by Superintendent Benedict. One of them was Calvin Ballard of Danville, Illinois, formerly of Indiana, who was in charge of schools in the Creek Nation and who made his home in Muskogee, but after

-2-

two years service he was transferred to the Choctaw Nation. The position of Supervisor of Creek schools was desired by Miss Alice Robertson and she received the appointment. Supervisor Ballard then spent ten years in the Choctaw Nation, having charge of all the schools in that Nation. Included was the St. Agnes Academy, Roman Catholic, to which a number of Indian children were sent whose tuition was paid from the Indian National funds. Eli Mitchel worked with Supervisor Ballard as Representative of the Choctaw Government in the schools. After his ten years of service among the Choctaws Supervisor Ballard was transferred back to the Creek Nation and resumed his residence in Muskogee.

A high class institution in the Choctaw Nation was the Jones Academy. This institution was founded by Principal Chief, or Governor Wilson N. Jones, who exhibited great interest in educational institutions and in the advancement of the people of his nation. The students of this academy were provided with uniforms, and it was a higher grade school than Wheelock Academy, which was an orphans' school. Another institution was the Tuskahoma School for Girls, which was destroyed by

---

-3-

fire in rather recent years.

Mrs. Ballard, in recalling events of long past years, relates that she and her husband used to drive from point to point in the Creek Nation, and also in the Choctaw Nation. Automobiles were unknown until a number of years after the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Ballard in the Indian Territory from their native state, Illinois. Buggies or hacks drawn by horses were the principal vehicles used, in traveling, by officials. Trips were made in all seasons of the year, and sometimes people drove forty miles in a day. Mrs. Ballard never had seen so many beautiful wild flowers until she came to the Indian Territory. The extensive prairies and valleys of the Creek and Choctaw Nations were covered with flowers in the spring and during part of the summer. The wild blossoms were of various hues, including blue, white, scarlet, pink, with yellow greatly predominating late in the summer and in the early fall. Beside the wild flowers there were extensive tracts which were covered with the native grass, which formed a solid carpet of green throughout the springtime and until well into the summer. Numerous cattle were pas-



BALLARD, EMMA - INTERVIEW

13808

-4-

tured on the grass, and large quantities of hay were procured from the prairies.

The superintendent and supervisors in charge of Indian Territory schools held their positions as Federal appointees until the admission of Oklahoma to Statehood. During their years of administration much improvement was made in the schools of the various Indian Nations. Mr. Calvin Ballard's death occurred February 18, 1925.

Authority:

Mrs. Emma Ballard, 439 N. 14th Street,  
Muskogee, Oklahoma.