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BRYAN, J. W.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

✓ 6285

INDEX CARDS

Cherokee Nation
Merchant
Salt Works
Union Mission
Church

Mary Stockton,
Field Worker-S-149.
6-17-37

389

Prominent Pioneer Died at Boatman.

Joel Mayes Bryan, Jr., a pioneer of Mayes County and the Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory, died at his home near Chapel, southeast of Iryor, May 30, 1937.

Joel Mayes Bryan, Jr., was born April 16, 1855, on the old Bryan Homestead near his present home. He was the son of Joel Mayes Bryan, Sr., who came to the Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory, from Georgia, in 1883. His father was born October 22, 1809, the only child of John Bryan and Nancy Mayes Bryan of Georgia. His mother, Rebecca Wright Bryan, died April 3, 1882, and his father, Joel M. Bryan, died August 8, 1898. They are both buried in the family cemetery just south of Chapel in Mayes County.

Mr. Bryan was the youngest of the family and is the last of the family, as his only brother, John Copeland Bryan, died many years ago in Missouri, and his sisters have all preceded him in death. Some of his sisters may be remembered as Mrs. Anna Lindsey, Mrs. Clem Hayden, Mrs. Baugh, mother of Joel Baugh, and Mrs. Dr. Walker, mother of R. J. Walker of this county.

Joel M. Bryan, Jr., was indeed a pioneer merchant of this section, as his father was also before him. His

father had charge of the Old Union Mission Salt Lick near the site of the Old Union Mission in the south-east part of Mayes County. He sold salt to residents of the Indian Territory and even parts of Kansas and Missouri. Also, at times a flat boat would take a cargo of salt to New Orleans, Louisiana, the salt business being a very profitable business in this section until the M. K. & T. Railroad was built in 1875. His father was also active in other business enterprises in this section and other sections of the Indian Territory. He also spent much time representing the Cherokees in Washington City.

Mr. Joel M. Bryan, Jr., conducted a store on Grand River for many years, later moving to a point just north of where Locust Grove is now located, and later to the town of Locust Grove, before retiring to his farm where he passed away. He was postmaster in what is now Mayes County for more than 39 years. He was at one time postmaster at Pryor Creek or rather assistant postmaster as he was but 13 years of age at that time; this was when the post office was at a small store on the old "Military Road", located on Pryor Creek, southeast of the present

town of Pryor. At that time mail was received once every twenty-four hours, by stage coach out of Baxter Springs, Kansas.

His mother and father were active in the building of the first little community church building in their section of the County. When it was destroyed by fire, the present Bryan Chapel was built and it will be from this chapel that the rites will be said for Mr. Bryan, Tuesday, June 1, 1937. Burial will be at the family cemetery just south of the chapel which has been used by the family for almost a hundred years.

Mr. Bryan married Lydia Ida Daugherty, June 14, 1884, and two children survive that marriage.

Mrs. Bryan died January 17, 1891, and he married Maggie Ross September 18, 1898. Mrs. Bryan of the second marriage died June 8, 1913. Clem of California is the only child surviving the union.

There are eight grand children, all of the same address.