

ROSS, ELIZABETH --W. C. T. U. CHEROKEE NATION

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Elizabeth Ross,
Interviewer,
August 31, 1937.

MRS. EMMA MOLLOY.

Mrs. Emma Molloy, who visited Tahlequah in 1884, was noted as a temperance lecturer and was a prominent member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union in Ohio. During the period of her stay at Tahlequah, Mrs. Molloy delivered addresses on a number of occasions and a large number of persons signed the pledge to abstain from the use of intoxicating liquor. Besides addressing audiences in Tahlequah, Mrs. Molloy met numbers of people elsewhere. There were persons who travelled considerable distances to hear her addresses or lectures.

One largely attended lecture was delivered at the Cherokee National Female Seminary, then situated in the Park Hill locality. The students of the institution, neighbors and people from other places were present.

Mrs. Molloy was a speaker of much ability and

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eloquence, and was given close attention.

On another occasion an address was delivered in the old Park Hill Presbyterian Church which stood near the site of the early day mission school long maintained by the American Board of Boston, Massachusetts. The church was situated in an open spot surrounded by woodlands. It was filled to overflowing. A larger number of people were present than on any other occasion, so far as is known. From time to time visiting ministers from distant states or cities, reached the Park Hill locality and preached in the old church.

Women speakers were seldom seen and heard, and for the purpose of listening to a woman a number of persons, who otherwise probably would have remained at home, were present.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union of Tahlequah, which came into existence as a result of the visit of Mrs. Emma Molloy, was active during a number of years. Among the presidents of the organization at the Cherokee

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Capital were Mrs. L. Jane Stapler and Mrs. Tennie Fuller, also others once well known in the town.

At one time the Tahlequah Organization maintained a department in the "Tahlequah Arrow," a newspaper of considerable circulation in the Indian Territory days and thereafter. In this department matters of interest to the members as well as to all interested in the temperance cause, were printed. All material used in the W. C. T. U. department was collected and arranged by a regularly appointed editor. During several years Mrs. Ella S. Witherill served as editor.

Mrs. Emma Molloy did not immediately return to Ohio, for after reaching Tahlequah she decided to remain for several months; and as some of the older residents recall, occupied a residence in company with some of the members of her family.

The Cherokee Advocate, the only publication in Tahlequah at the time of the arrival of Mrs. Molloy, contained references in its columns from time to

time concerning her work in the cause of temperance.

On one occasion a list of men who had signed the pledge was printed.

(Note: The information in this manuscript was found in part in old issues of the Cherokee Advocate and in part is from the memory of the writer of the manuscript and her brother, who were born and reared in this community, and who know by personal knowledge the happenings in their community. Ed.)