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INTERVIEW.

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INTERVIEW WITH MRS. ELVA PARRIS
503 Choctaw, Tahlequah, Oklahoma
Frank N. Still, Field Worker

Mrs. Elva Parris, nee Ingram, was born September 18, 1865, Cherokee County, North Carolina. She is a Cherokee Indian.

Father- Eli Ingram

Mother- Mary G. Ingram, nee Whitaker

This family came to the Indian Territory in the spring of 1881, going first to Muskogee and then to Tahlequah. They rented a place called the Jim Peoples place the first year.

Mrs. Parris' uncle, William Whitaker founded the Whitaker Orphans' Home at Pryor, Oklahoma.

EARLY SCHOOLS

I first attended the Crittenden School. Edna Gladney was the teacher, 1881. My next school was Blue Springs School on Fourteen Mile Creek, one of the oldest schools, being founded as early as 1846. Carrie R. Gourd was the teacher. I also attended the Baptist Mission at Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Professor Bacom was principal. Dr. Allen was one of the teachers. I later went to the Female Seminary at Park Hill before it burned. After it burned I came to the Presbyterian Mission. Mr. Miller was principal. Miss Orr was the teacher.

My father served in the Civil War. He was wounded in the hand. He brought his sword home after the war. My brother, John Ingraham of Tulsa, Oklahoma, has my father's sword that he used in the war.

My father and mother are buried at Pryor, Oklahoma. My brother, Dave, graduated from the Male Seminary. He taught school and paid off the mortgage on father's farm.

During the war, my mother made a corn crop with a hoe. She said she raised long ears of corn. She had two small children to care for. She said they parched wheat and rye to make coffee. They gritted their corn and got it up to make bread for herself and children.

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