

Chauncey O. Moore, Supervisor
Indian-Pioneer-History, S-149

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Frank J. Still
Field Worker

Interview: Margaret Parris

Mrs. Margaret Parris, nee Courd, lives at Gideon, Oklahoma. She was born at Manard Bayou on February 22nd, 1857. She is a Cherokee Indian.

Father - Ellis Rattling Courd

Mother - Susan Ryley

Grandmother - Anna Hendrix, came from Georgia in 1808. She says they had to walk.

Mrs. Parris' father served in the Civil War and he was trying to get back to his Company and his own side killed him through mistake.

EARLY SCHOOLS AND BATTLE OF MANARD BAYOU

My husband, James Parris, and I were married at Tahlequah on September 20th, 1877. We moved to this home and have lived here 60 years. I was converted and joined the church 54 years ago at Lureka, 7 miles from Tahlequah under the preaching of Dr. Nick Bittings, an early minister.

My people stayed all through the war at Manard Bayou. My father is buried there somewhere. I went to the Goodall School. My teachers were Lollie Spears, who later married Rev. Evan Robertson, and a man by the name of Field. The only schoolmate I can remember was John Hendrix. I can remember when they tore the first Blue Springs school down. It was in 1861. Aunt Letty Parris made a dwelling out of the logs. The old logs are now in a barn one-half mile north of Gideon, Okla. I have seen five different school houses at Blue Springs or Gideon, as it is now called. My husband served on the School Board with Isaac Mayfield and Elijah T. Wilson for many years. All my children went to this school, located 9 miles north of Tahlequah, Oklahoma.