

ROGERS, WILLIAM

INTERVIEW

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Etta D. Mason, Investigator.
October 9, 1937

Biographical sketch of
Benjamin Franklin Rogers as
given by William Rogers, of
Atoka, Oklahoma, in an inter-
view with Etta D. Mason.

My father, Benjamin Franklin Rogers, was born in 1852.

His father, William Rogers, moved to the Choctaw Nation about that time and devoted himself to agriculture, although he was a surveyor and a mechanic, a man of excellent education.

At an early age, B. F. Rogers, my father, was sent to a neighborhood school where he remained until 1862, when he moved with his father to Jack Fork County, Choctaw Nation.

At the age of twenty-one years he married Mrs. Mary M. Flint, widow of J. C. Flint, thereby becoming an intermarried citizen. His wife's maiden name was Mary M. Parsons, her mother being Sophia Krebs, the daughter of a distinguished Choctaw family.

To this union three children were born, William Franklin, Mary Isabella and Isaac LaFayette. Mr. Rogers also had a step-daughter, Sophia A. Flint.

Mr. Rogers identified himself with this country for a great number of years and in such a manner that he was liked and appreciated by all good men. He was a prominent member

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of the Baptist Church; held the office of Deacon for a number of years and was local trustee of the Atoka Baptist Academy for two years.

He had a good farm of five hundred and fifty acres with some eighty acres in cultivation. Also one hundred head of cattle and twenty head of horses. His residence situated within three miles of Atoka, at the foot of the Bald Knob, was one of the most picturesque spots in the country while the valley below was fertile and well watered.

As the years passed Mr. Rogers, by economy, perseverance and with the help of his good wife, Mary M., prospered to the extent that he increased his herds and land-holdings.

About the year 1920 or '21, he built a modern residence in Atoka and moved from the farm to it. He was returning from a political speaking on the night of October 12, 1922, when struck by an automobile and from those injuries he died in a hospital at Sherman, Texas, October 13, 1922. He was brought back to Atoka and buried in the Atoka Heights Cemetery. The Knights Templar Masons, Dr. J. S. Murrow and C. S. McClung, Pastor of the First Baptist Church, conducted the ceremonies.

In his life in the Choctaw Nation he had held several offices of trust.