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Investigator
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Interview with William F. Rogers
Atoka, Oklahoma.

Mrs. Mary M. Rogers.

My mother, Mary M. Rogers, was born in Winston County, Mississippi, July 8, 1855, daughter of Simeon Parsons and Sophia Krebs. Mother's parents were married June 20, 1853, and three children were born to them.

In May 1862, Mother's father died and in October 1863 the two younger children died of diphtheria.

She and her mother lived in the same community in which her mother had been reared, among their friends and when Mary M. was nine years of age she gave her heart to Jesus and joined the Methodist Church with her mother.

She married J. C. Flint, the son of Horatio Flint, a Methodist minister. Young Flint was a Christian and a member of the Methodist Church.

One year later they with their mother, Mrs. Parsons, moved from Mississippi to Skullyville, Choctaw Nation and from there moved to Canadian, November 28, 1871, ^{and} while there a baby girl was born to them; she was named Sophia Antoinette.

May 15, 1872, my grandmother died, then Mr. Flint moved his little family to McAllester and in November, 1872, they moved to Atoka.

February 20, 1873, Mr. Flint Mother's first husband, was placed in his last resting place and Mother and Sophia were left alone among strangers.

Later Mother married Mr. B. F. Rogers, son of William Rogers, a pioneer settler of Atoka, who was well educated and was a surveyer and mechanic and to this union three children were born: William F., Mary I. (called Belle) and Isaac L. The two youngest died after they were grown.

Mother and Father made their home three miles north-east of Atoka at the foot of the mountain known as the Bald Knob and raised their family to be grown at this place.

Mother has two living children, thirteen grandchildren, eighteen great-grandchildren, six grand sons-in-law and three great grand-daughters-in-law.

After we children had grown up and married, mother and Father moved to Atoka. May 12, 1881, they joined the Ohoychoma Chapter, and in November 1, 1881 they joined the O. E. S. at Atoka.

Mother filled several offices and was soon elected Worthy Matron of her Chapter. She served as Grand Lecturer two years, as District Deputy Grand Matron two years, and in 1894 was Grand Warden. In 1895 she was elected Worthy Grand Matron of Indian Territory.

Mother studied baptism and became satisfied that immersion was scriptural baptism so she united with the First Baptist Church of Atoka in 1877. The children were converted at an early age and joined the same church.

Mother was the first president of the Woman's Baptist Missionary Society organized in Atoka December 6, 1885 and later served several years as secretary of the associated Woman's Baptist Home Mission Society of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Baptist Association. She was elected president of the W. B. M. Society Auxilliary to the Atoka County Baptist Association. She also served as Superintendent of a Baptist Sunday School in the County for several years.

She taught day school a few months in order to teach the children to read so that they could study their Sunday School lessons and she drew pay for this work from the Choctaw Nation.

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Some of the patrons insisted that she continue her teaching but while she loved the work, she felt her work was at home.

October 1, 1913, Mother joined the Pioneer Club in Atoka and served as president two years during the war, a hard time to serve in this office. Four or five of the women stayed together and brought the Club through clear of debt, with all dues paid and with a little money in the treasury, to be used to put a roof on the club house which was very much needed.

Mother became a member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and was elected president and served one year.

On October 12, 1922, Father was run down by an automobile and died October 13, 1922 and again Mother was left alone but in her comfortable home in Atoka she was surrounded by her children and many friends to cheer her in her lonely life. She again reconsecrated her services to the Lord. She was elected president of the Woman's Mission Society, Auxiliary to the Atoka Baptist Association and taught a class in Sunday School of Junior boys and a class of boys and girls in the Junior Baptist Young Peoples Union.

On each Monday afternoon she taught the Junior Royal Ambassadors and was also superintendent of the Home Extension Department of the Sunday School in which department the workers held one prayer meeting each week.

Mother died in Albert Pike Hospital at McAlester, September 23, 1937, of a heart ailment. Her body was brought back to Atoka and laid to rest in the Atoka Heights Cemetery by the side of my father.

