

McCLELLAN, WILLIAM INTERVIEW: .

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MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM PETER McCLELLAN.
By Mary Jane Stockton.
Claremore, Okla.

For many years "Uncle Bill", William Peter McClellan, was an active and highly respected citizen of Cooweescoowee District, Cherokee Nation, now Rogers County, Oklahoma, residing on a farm-ranch, six miles northeast of the City of Claremore.

Mr. McClellan was born in Washington County, Arkansas, December 28, 1855. He died in the old "Neison Residence", at the corner of Third Street and Chickasaw Avenue, Claremore, about twenty years ago.

He was the fourth son of Edward William McClellan, a Scotchman, who was born in Alabama and who came to Arkansas in 1833. The wife and mother was Sarah Truesdale, a native of Indiana, about whose parentage but little is known.

William Peter entered Cane Hill College, in Washington County, Arkansas, at the age of 13 and remained there for five years, after which he accepted employment with his older brother, the late Charles McClellan, who had engaged (successfully) in the mercantile and stock-trading business at Tahlequah. There he remained for about five years, after which he was united in marriage with Miss Rachel L.

-2-

Adair, daughter of John Lynch Adair, a Cherokee, and former captain in the Confederate Army in General Stan Watie's famous Cherokee regiment. In 1891 Mr. McClellan was elected Superintendent of the Cherokee Male Seminary, a national school for Cherokee boys, located near Tahlequah.

Mr. and Mrs. McClellan became the parents of five children: Mary E. (now Mrs. Robert Tanner, a resident of Claremore) Pearl and Edward W. deceased, William A. and Chas T., now residents of Claremore. Chas. T. has been twice elected Court Clerk of Rogers county and is now connected with the Home Owner's Loan Corporation, of the Federal government. while William A. is a highly respected business man of Claremore.

For many years William Peter McClellan owned and occupied a fine farm on Sweetwater creek, northeast of Claremore, producing bountiful crops of grain and hay, while his herds roamed, and grew fat, on the neighboring plains. His home, built after the old-time southern type, was a favorite "stopping place" for cattlemen and Cherokee politicians. He made the race for sheriff in the first statehood campaign (1907) and was defeated by less than fifty votes, Hiram Stephens being his successful opponent. He never again sought

public office, though well qualified and **very** popular.

A few years after Oklahoma was admitted into the Union and the broad ranges cut up into eighty-acre farms, Mr. McClellan disposed of his holdings and moved into Claremore where he engaged in the Livery, Feed and Sale business with considerable success. This was during the "hoss and buggy" days and his "rigs" were for the most part used ^{by} traveling salesmen, commonly called "drummers" who used them in working their respective territories, or fields of endeavor. Mr. McClellan was a whole-souled, jolly fellow who always met his friends with a smile and usually had a good story to tell. He was of a kind, sympathetic disposition, frequently visiting the sick and ministering to the orphaned and distressed. He was more than six-feet tall and weighed about 200 pounds. He is remembered kindly by those who knew him best.

This information was secured from D. J. Faulkner, former sheriff of Rogers county; A. L. Kates, publisher of the Claremore Progress; Edward Bean, pioneer farmer of Rogers county; Robert Kittrell, the "Village Blacksmith", of Foyil, and others.