

INDEX CARDS:

**Cherokee Nation
Tribe-Cherokee
Civil War Refugee
Bacone College
Cherokee Female Seminary**

Jas. Buchanan,
 Field Worker. BIOGRAPHY FORM
 WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
 Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

172

Field Worker's name Jas. S. Buchanan
 This report made on (date) June 17, 1937 1937

1. Name Mary Elizabeth Hanks
2. Post Office Address Webbers Falls
3. Residence address (or location) Route 2, Box 4
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month September Day 7 Year 1864
5. Place of birth Choctaw Nation
6. Name of Father Robert Wofford Place of birth Evansville, Ark.
 Other information about father Cherokee
7. Name of Mother Martha Jane Vann Wright Place of birth Cherokee Nat.
 Other information about mother Cherokee

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached Three

Jas. Buchanan,
Field Worker.

MARY ELIZABETH (WOFFORD) HANKS.
Route 2, Box 4,
Webbers Falls, Oklahoma.

Interview - June 17, 1937.

-Jas. B. Buchanan

I (Mary Elizabeth Hanks) was born September 7, 1864 in the Choctaw Nation near Red river.

My father was Robert Wofford, Cherokee, the son of Charles Wofford, a white man and was born near Evansville. His mother was Agnes (Pettit) Wofford a fullblood Cherokee.

My mother was Martha Jane Vann (Wright) Wofford, Cherokee, daughter of Eli and Nancy Vann Wright.

There were three children born to my parents as follows;

Mary Elizabeth (Wofford) Hanks, Born September 7, 1864.

Ellen Agnes (Wofford) Gladney, Born May 4, 1868.

Minnie B. (Wofford) Ritchie, Born November 10, 1871.

At the outbreak of the civil war, my father moved the family into the Choctaw Nation near Red River with several other Cherokee families that fled from the Cherokee Nation to avoid the serious conditions that

(2)

MARY ELIZABETH HANKS.

were brought on in that country by the war. After the close of the Civil War, the family returned to the Cherokee Nation and settled in the Goingsnake district. It was during the time the family was in the Choctaw Nation that I was born.

My first schooling was in the Cherokee public schools at Tahlequah, later attending the Bacone college when it first opened at Tahlequah by Rev. Almon C. Bacone as its founder and principal teacher. That institution was moved from Tahlequah to Muskogee in 1885.

I also attended the Cherokee Female Seminary at Tahlequah. After leaving the Cherokee Female Seminary, I taught in the Cherokee public schools for three years in the vicinity of Tahlequah.

In 1890 I was married to Robert T. Hanks, Cherokee, of near Webbers Falls. One child was born to us, a daughter, Robbie (Hanks) Smith, born September 8, 1894.

My husband, Robert T. Hanks died January 30, 1916.

(3)

The old home place at which I am now living was a claim purchased by Mr. Hanks from one of the Vann brothers about 1865. I have lived at this same place since 1892 with the exception of four years we lived at Tahlequah during the time my husband was secretary to Chief Harris of the Cherokees.