

INDEX CARDS:

Missionaries
Choctaw Nation
Pine Ridge
Stock Bridge
Bennington
Mayhew
Goodland
Spencer
Wheelock
Chickasaw Nation
Wapanucka
Boggy Depot

INGE, THOMAS (MRS.). INTERVIEW. #7735

Interview with Mrs. Thomas Inge
Atoka, Oklahoma

Investigator - Etta D. Mason
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149
September 29, 1937

Before the Indians were removed to Indian Territory, missionaries had been laboring among them. Through all the trouble connected with the removal, the missionaries had remained staunch and faithful friends and advisors of the Indians. Then as soon as possible after the removal, missions were established and schools were opened for the Indian children in what was then Indian Territory.

During the Civil War almost all missionary work was discontinued but immediately after the war ended new missions were built and the religious work started again.

The missions and schools were supported by several missionary societies. The eldest and most influential was the American Board. This board was composed mostly of Presbyterians and Congregationalists.

There were also the Methodist Missionary Society and a Baptist Missionary Society.

INGE, THOMAS (MRS.). INTERVIEW.

#7735

-2-

The Baptist Board of Missions came next to the Presbyterian Board in strength.

Missions had been established in all the tribes and the work of the missionaries continued till the beginning of the Civil War.

Cyrus Byington, Cyrus Kingsberry, Ebenezer Haskins and others revived missionary work after the war.

The Presbyterian Board had more missionaries and missions in the Choctaw Nation and also in the Chickasaw Nation than in the Cherokee Nation. The Missions throughout the Choctaw Nation were at Pine Ridge with Mr. Kingsberry as superintendent; at Stockbridge with Mr. Byington as superintendent.

There were missions also at Bennington, Mayhew, Goodland, Spencer and Wheelock and at Wapanucka which was in the Chickasaw Nation.

Over 300 missionaries were sent out among the Indians of the different tribes to work.

Mr. Byington was a scholarly man and an able translator. The men and women sent out by the

INGE, THOMAS (MRS.). INTERVIEW.

#7735

-3-

different boards were a heroic band of workers who devoted their lives and fortunes to missionary work.

A Baptist Board of Missions had been established as early as 1844 and after the war this board became active and some Baptist Missions were working in all the tribes.

My father, the Reverend Mr. R. J. Hogue was sent by the Baptist Board of Missions to the Chickasaw Indians. He established several missions in the Chickasaw Nation. Afterwards he was moved to the Choctaw Nation and was stationed at Boggy Depot. He is buried at that place. Many of the missionaries have been at our home at Boggy Depot.

My husband Thomas Inge was also a teacher and minister among the Indians at Boggy Depot. In my opinion the work of the missionaries has been the most important phase in the building and development of Oklahoma.