

Chauncey O. Moore, Supervisor
Indian-Pioneer History, S-149

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Frank J. Still
Field Worker

Interview: Amanda L. Still

Amanda L. Still, nee Wilson, who lives at 410 Keetoowah St., Tahlequah, Oklahoma was born December 9th, 1883 in Union County, Georgia. She is a Cherokee Indian.

Father - Elijah T. Wilson

Mother - Mary E. Thompson Wilson

Her great grandfather came to I. T. in 1828 or 29 and settled near Evansville, Arkansas. He came from North Carolina in a boat. When near Ft. Smith, Arkansas, the boat sank but all of the family were saved. Her grandfather, (Coosa) C. S. Thompson, was a member of Council. He came to I. T. in 1881.

OLD CHURCH, SCHOOL AND CONVENTIONS AT BLUE SPRINGS (NOW GIDEON)

My parents came to Oklahoma from Georgia in October 1884. They bought a little place on 14 Mile Creek known as the old Mackay Place, then owned by Samuel Boyles. There was a two-room log house. We were told at that time that the house was over 60 years old. The old house burned 4 years ago. Our home was a stopping place for travelers on the way from Vinita and Fryer. Parents bringing their children to the Seminaries in wagons and hacks stopped for the night as they could only travel about 20 miles per day. I remember Mr. Parks bringing his children, John Parks of Chelsea, Ex-Judge Sam F. Parks of Vinita and a daughter, Ruth. Later the Parks brothers taught our school at Blue Springs.

Blue Springs school was established as early as 1846. Later it was abandoned account of such a few children, and moved to Tahlequah. Some of my teachers were Callie Ridge, Sam and John Parks, Napoleon Wallace and Carrie ...

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Courd. My father, Elijah T. Wilson, James Parris and Isaac Mayfield were trustees or directors.

The first Blue Springs School was on the Betsy Parris farm, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of Gideon, Oklahoma. The logs of the old building are still in use in a barn.

My father helped organize the first Baptist Church at Blue Springs in 1884. My uncle, William D. Thompson, was the first Moderator. Billie Summers Clerk. Deacon: E. T. Wilson, James L. Dean. Rev. T. C. Shanks of Tahlequah preached there in 1889 or 1890, also Rev. Evans Robertson and Uncle Billie Sullivan.

My father established the first Post Office at Gideon, Oklahoma. It was named for Ex-Senator Gideon Morgan. It was the only Post Office between Pryor and Tahlequah. My father also had a store, cotton gin and later a corn mill. I can remember the Indians coming there to trade. One old Indian named Tom Houston called "Crazy Tom" was always bare-footed. He would stay all night with us, finally he left body lice and mother would not let him stay any more. My father was a white man and he made friends with the Indians and they all loved him.

I remember when some men came to the school house to tell the Houston boys that their father, Sequoyah Houston, was killed. He was a U. S. Marshal and in trying to capture some bandits was killed by the Cook Gang. Bill Cook killed him in 1894.

My grandfather, Caleb Storral (Coosa) Thompson, served under Morgan during the Civil War. More detailed account is given in narrative by my Uncle John F. Thompson.

The old Indian Associations used to be held at Swimmer Church. Also the conventions were held at Blue Springs and Bub Tucker Springs, near Moody, Oklahoma.

An incident that I remember took place when I was 10 years old. There was a convention held at Tuckers Spring. Late in the evening we saw three men riding up. They were drunk so father told us all to stay in the house. They rode up to the gate. One had a big brown jug on the saddle. They drank and passed it around. One boy wouldn't drink so they dragged him off his horse and began beating him over the head with a pistol. He got loose from them and came running through the house with blood streaming down his face. He went out at the back door where we children had gathered, scared nearly to death. He ran out and hid in a corn field and they didn't find him until midnight. His name was Jim Smith, son of J. M. (Appletree Smith). He later died from the effects of that beating. There was scarcely ever a meeting that there wasn't some one killed.

My father was a Mason. He belonged to the Cherokee Lodge No. 10 at Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

My mother is living and is 80 years old.

There were very few people living around there at that time. One of the few now living is Micheal O. Ghormley, 90 years old, also Mrs. Margret Parris of Gideon.