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RICHARD FIELDS BOUDINOT, Informant.

Jas. S. Buchanan

In the early days in mission work among the Cherokees in Georgia the missionary societies took many young Indians of school age back east and placed them in schools and educated them. Most all of the Indians that were given that opportunity returned to their people with college degrees and cultured. Through that method great work was accomplished in educating and christianizing the Indians. Among the number of young Indians that were taken to those schools was a boy by the name of Wait, spelled w-a-i-t. He has been referred to by other names by writers, but it is handed down through the Cherokees that his correct name was Wait. He was sent to the Foreign Mission School at Cornwall, Connecticut. He was graduated with high honors and was granted the privilege of adopting the name of Elias Boudinot, president of the missionary society and interested in the education of the Indians. While attending school in Connecticut he met a girl by the name of Harriet Gold, a member of a very prominent white family of Cornwall, they were married there and she returned with him to his people in Georgia. Elias Boudinot and Harriet Gold Boudinot were my grandparents. Six children were born to them, three girls and three boys including my father, William Penn Boudinot, born in 1830. My grandmother, Harriet Boudinot died in Georgia in 1836, leaving Elias Boudinot with six motherless children. Soon after her death grandfather married another white woman, a missionary worker, by the name of Sargent, and

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with his family came to the Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory in the fall of 1837. Upon his arrival in the Cherokee Nation he became active in missionary and publishing work with Samuel Austin Worcester, missionary and publisher who established the first printing press and the first publication, the Cherokee Phoenix, in the Indian Territory at Union Mission, later moved to Park Hill. The Cherokee Phoenix was first established by Mr. Worcester in Georgia about 1828 with which Elias Boudinot was connected, but did not come west with Mr. Worcester when he moved the press to the Indian Territory. Samuel Worcester's name is perpetuated through Indian legend as a good christian man and friend of the Indians as he translated and published the Cherokee's first Bible in their own language, with which work Elias Boudinot assisted. Elias Boudinot became very active in tribal political affairs and due to his activities in behalf of a treaty that the Government had proposed to the Cherokees, he had made many enemies in the opposing clans which resulted in his assassination at Park Hill in 1839.

WILLIAM PENN BOUDINOT, my father was reared at Park Hill and married my mother, Caroline Fields, at Park Hill in 1853. My mother was half Cherokee and was educated at Dwight Mission on Sallisaw Creek. There were eight children born to this union, five boys and three girls, as follows: Elias Cornelius, Richard Fields, Thomas, who died at the age of four, Henry French and

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Frank J. The girls were Elinor, Marguret and Mary.

ELIAS CORNELIUS BOUDINOT. Born January 2, 1854 in Flint District, Cherokee Nation. The strife of the Civil War deprived Elias Cornelius of educational opportunities in his younger years. Due to conditions in the Cherokee Nation brought on by the Civil War, for the safety of the family, father moved to the Choctaw Nation and located at a place about three miles east of where the city of McAlester now stands and remained there until the close of the war, at which time he moved back to the Cherokee Nation. Many of the Cherokees fled to the Choctaw Nation during the war as the Choctaws did not suffer from the results of the war as the Cherokees did. The Choctaws were very generous and good to us while taking refuge in their nation. At the close of the war, our Uncle Cornelius Boudinot took my brother Cornelius back east and placed him in school in Connecticut. After he returned home from school in the east he attended the Cherokee Male Seminary at Tahlequah and took up the study of law under our father, as he was a practicing attorney among the Cherokees. After graduating in law Cornelius practiced in the Cherokee courts and later appointed as private legal council looking after tribal affairs in Washington. In that capacity, he spent much of his time in Washington. He continued his legal practice until his death in 1896.

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ELINOR MARGURET. Born October 25, 1893, seven miles south of Ft. Gibson. Educated in the public schools. Married to Roscoe Gilmore in 1911.

HARRIET GOLD. Born November 25, 1897 three miles north of Braggs at the old Boudinot home. Educated in the public schools. Married to Frank Gladd in 1926.

WILLIAM PENN. Born-----three miles north of Braggs at the old Boudinot home. Educated in the public schools. In government hospital service. Married in 1929 to Etha Green of near Braggs.

RACHEL CATHERINE, Born September 24, 1903 on Boudinot farm three miles north of Braggs. Educated in public schools, Northeastern Teachers' College at Pahlequah and Craughons' Business College at Muskogee.

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RICHARD FIELDS BOUDINOT. Born June 7, 1856 in Flint District,  
Cherokee Nation.

I was only five years of age when the Civil War broke out and the family was forced to leave our home in the Cherokee Nation and seek safety in the Choctaw Nation and ten years of age when father moved the family back to our old home in the Cherokee Nation in the Illinois district three miles east of what is now the town of Braggs. In 1869 father moved from that place to a place about ten miles southeast of Ft. Gibson, where the family lived until we moved to Tahlequah in 1880 where father practiced law in the Cherokee courts.

From childhood until I was about nineteen years of age my health was very poor, but began to improve about the time we moved to Tahlequah and practically recovered when I entered school at the Cherokee Male Seminary at that place. I never was in public life in any way, I always remained at or near home with my parents during their life and engaged in farming and stock raising.

I was married June 8, 1890 to Mary Catherine Trippard, daughter of James R. Trippard Sr. of near Ft. Gibson. Five children were born to us; Mary C. born March 22, 1891. Educated in the Cherokee schools. Entered Government service in secretarial work in 1918; was in Washington about seven years, Cuba for about the same length of time then transferred to Riga, Latvia, a little country on the western boundary of Russia, north of Poland.

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THOMAS BOUDINOT. Born in 1858 in Flint District, Cherokee Nation and only lived four years and died in 1862 in the Choctaw Nation during the war.

ELINOR BOUDINOT. Born March 8, 1861 in Illinois District, Cherokee Nation. She was born just prior to the moving of the family to the Choctaw Nation and was just approaching school age when the family returned to the Cherokee Nation after the war. She was educated in the Cherokee public schools and the Cherokee Female Seminary at Tahlequah and taught in the Cherokee schools several years, before and after her marriage to John Meigs. In later years suffered the misfortune of the loss of her eyesight.

HENRY BOUDINOT. Born \_\_\_\_\_ 1863 in the Choctaw Nation. Educated in the Cherokee schools. Engaged in farming during his life. Died at Tahlequah in 1885.

FRANK BOUDINOT. Born August 20, 1866 at the old Tom Starr Springs on Canadian river in camp while the family was returning from the Choctaw Nation after the war. During his school age father was better situated to give him an education than he was the older children. Frank was educated in the Cherokee schools, Macone college and universities of law in the east. After completing his education he entered public life in the practice of law in the Cherokee Nation and later representing the interest of the Cherokees with the Government and such practice required so much of his time at Washington he located



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there permanently engaged in his law practice and looking after the interest of the Cherokees.

MARY BOUDINOT. Born \_\_\_\_\_ 1872 in the Illinois District, Cherokee Nation. Educated in the Cherokee schools. Married to Archie Spears in 1890. Died in 1895.