



MRS. ELINOR BOUDINOT MEIGS, Informant, -Jas S. Buchanan  
 Ft. Gibson, (Sister of Frank J. Boudinot)  
 Subject, Frank J. Boudinot.

March 23, 1937.

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Frank Josiah Boudinot was born August 20, 1866, at the old Tom Starr place on the Canadian River, while in camp, on the return trip from the Choctaw Nation where the family had taken refuge from the serious conditions that existed in the Cherokee Nation during the Civil War. His parents were William Penn Boudinot and Carrie M. (Fields) Boudinot, both of whom were natives of Georgia. The father coming to the nation in 1838, and the mother in 1834, when they were both children. The father of Frank J. Boudinot was educated in a school in Connecticut. November 19, 1874 the National Council of the Cherokee Nation passed an act authorizing the Principal Chief William P. Ross to appoint three commissioners to revise, amend, and codify the existing laws and prepare new laws as the conditions of the Nation demanded.

The Commissioners appointed were William Penn Boudinot, D. H. Ross and Joseph A. Scales. Throughout the years of his active life William Penn Boudinot was prominently connected with public affairs in the Cherokee Nation and had marked influence in shaping the policy and destiny of his People.

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Frank J. Boudinot is a graduate of the Baptist Indian University (Bacone College) at Muskogee, also attended school in Michigan, where he completed the course in 1887. In that year he returned to his home and accepted a position as assistant executive secretary under D. A. Bushyhead, in which capacity he served for seven months, and at the end of that time he was appointed clerk of the Supreme Court of the Cherokee Nation, thus serving for eighteen months.

On the expiration of that period he resigned to take charge of the Cherokee Advocate, published at Tahlequah, in both the Cherokee and English language. His father being the editor of that paper, while his grandfather, Elias Boudinot, was connected with Samuel A. Worcester, its founder when the organ was established in Georgia in 1827, when it was known as the Phoenix. It was a national paper, supported by the Cherokee Nation, an appropriation being made to pay its expenses. Frank Boudinot remained with the Cherokee Advocate for a period of two years, and during that time he devoted all his leisure time to the

Study and practice of law. He became engrossing Clerk of the Senate, and in the Fall of 1894, he entered the law Department of the Michigan State University at Ann Arbor, where he pursued a special course through one year. He then returned and was admitted to the Bar by the United States Supreme Court of the Indian Territory. In 1896 he was one of the four attorneys who represented the Cherokee Nation before the Dawes Commission. His associates being W. W. Hastings of Tahlequah; James F. Davenport, of Vinita; and S. Frazier Parks, also of Vinita.

He has filled the position of clerk for the various Cherokee Councils, also was one of a committee of three who were appointed by the Kee-Too-Wah Society to defend the rights of the full-blooded Cherokees against all changes proposed by the United States Government to take effect without the consent of the members of the Nation.

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July 23, 1897 Frank J. Boudinot was married to Miss Anna S. Meigs of St. Gibson, a daughter of Henry C. Meigs, and a grand-daughter of John Ross, who was Chief of the Cherokee Nation for many years. On the Meigs side she is a great-great grand-daughter of General Return Jonathan Meigs of Revolutionary fame, to whom members of Congress voted a sword in recognition of his bravery in defeating the British on Long Island. In the affairs of the nation few men have been more prominent than the representatives of the Boudinot family, and Frank J. Boudinot is a worthy Scion of his race. At the date of this writing he is residing in Washington, D. C. where he has been permanently located for the past several years engaged in the practice of his legal profession and looking after the interest of his people, the Cherokees.