

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

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Frank J. Still
Field Worker

Interview: Mrs. Maud Miller

Mrs. Maud Miller, nee Blair, lives at 425 W. Choctaw St. Tahlequah, Oklahoma. She was born at the old Sequoyah home, Sequoyah County, on February 17, 1881. She is a Cherokee Indian.

Father - Tom Blair. He served in the Civil War. He and Bob Megs of Park Hill were in the same Company under Stand Watie.

Mother - Margaret Blair, nee Sanders

Grandfather and Grandmother came from Georgia over the "trail of tears" in 1838.

EARLY SCHOOLS - SEQUOYAH HOME

I was born in the old Sequoyah home near Akins, Oklahoma. My father bought the home from Sequoyah's wife. He owned it until he died in January 1932, age 87. My father, Tom Blair, served under Stand Watie. He was in the battle of Prairie Grove and Honey Springs and was wounded in the knee in one of the battles.

He said they were traveling near Ft. Gibson and they were so hungry they lay down to die but food came and pepped them up and they went through the war.

My father was sheriff 8 years under the Cherokee Nation. He also served on the Council and in the Cherokee Senate. While sheriff, he would chain the prisoners to the porch post, furnish them bedding and guard them until court met. He also kept the jurymen while court was going on in the Sequoyah Court House. My father captured some Creek Indians with jugs of whiskey. He would lie down on his horse and shoot until they surrendered.

I attended the first public school in Tahlequah. Eleanor Boudinot was my teacher. I started to the Female Seminary in 1892. I taught school at Woodall and Cave Springs. I taught at Woodall in 1901. It was a one room log house.

While I was going to the public school, we heard there was a man to be hung at the jail. Hattie Johnson and I ran off from school and saw him hung. His name was Bear Paw, the last man to be hung.

My husband's father, Crill Miller, was a General in the Civil War. We have a picture of him in uniform. My sister, Hattie Merchant, has his sword. We have a pistol that Mr. Miller used. He served in Texas during the war.