



EDDLEMAN, MARY.

INTERVIEW.

7888.

Ella Robinson,  
Investigator,  
Oct. 16, 1937.

An Interview With Mary Eddleman,  
506 Market Street, Muskogee.

LIFE AND EXPERIENCES OF AN  
INDIAN PIONEER WOMAN.

About the year 1760 two brothers, Robert and William Daugherty, left Ireland supposedly for political and religious reasons and emigrated to the United States; landing in New York they separated, one going to Virginia and the other to Georgia. The brother in Virginia started West when he fell in with a band of roving Indians by whom he was taken prisoner. He was rescued by a Cherokee girl who begged for his life. He was adopted into the tribe and married the girl who had been successful in securing his release. These events took place in the Cherokee Nation but just where is not known. They had one son, William, who also married a Cherokee girl, Sallie Bunch. They were my grandparents. They with their family, left the Cherokee Nation in the East coming West between the years of 1817-19 with a party of Cherokees who settled in the northern part of what is now the state of Arkansas

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where there was a settlement of Cherokees. They had a son, James Madison Daugherty, who married Eleanor McGeehee, and James Madison Daugherty and Eleanor Daugherty were my parents. After my parents were married, they moved across the line into Missouri where they then established a comfortable home in which I was born. As much trouble with the Indians had been experienced and conditions were unsettled in the new Indian Territory they at first decided to stay in Missouri, although they were of Indian blood.

However, in the Fall of 1850 my parents decided to face all obstacles and move to the Territory. I was three and a half years old at this time, having been born in April, 1848. So selling their home and land, they started, taking their horses with them. Mother and the small children traveled in a three-seated conveyance. <sup>The</sup> covered wagon held the household goods and camping equipment. Some of the men rode horseback and drove the horses. Although I was only three and a half years old I always remembered the tall grass along the Texas road. We crossed the Arkansas River near the present location of Okay. We

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passed east of the present site of Muskogee, traveling on the old Texas trail. On reaching the Territory everything looked so wild and unsettled that my father decided not to stop for, as he had been living in a settled community, he did not like the idea of moving into an entirely undeveloped country with a family of small children, so we traveled on into Texas, locating in Denton County. My father died in 1853, leaving my mother with six sons and one daughter. After the death of my mother in 1860 and about the time the Civil War came on, my brothers placed me in school in the McKinzie College at Clarksville, Texas. My five brothers who were old enough, enlisted in the Confederate Army under General Cooper. Three were sent to the Indian Territory and served some time under General Stand Watie. Two of my brothers were in the battle of Honey Springs but were not injured. They were in all the skirmishes in and around what are the towns of Muskogee and Frozen Rock. My brother, Mack, was advanced to the rank of Captain. Two of my brothers stood on picket duty for days on top of Chimney Mountain, south of Muskogee. Just before the

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battle of Honey Springs, the General and his staff had taken refuge in a negro cabin to plan an attack when a runner came, saying that the Federals were coming. As they hurriedly left the cabin, the General forgot his false teeth that he had placed in a glass of water. His orderly volunteered to go back and get them. Just as the orderly left the cabin, after rescuing the teeth, a cannon ball fired by the Federals, tore a log out of the cabin wall. The cabin stood for many years and after I came to the Territory I went to see it as I had heard my brother relate the story.

At the close of the Civil War in 1866, I was married to D. J. Eddleman, who owned and operated a large horse ranch near Denton, Texas. It was not for some time after my brothers had re-established their homes in Texas from which they had been absent during the war that they seriously thought of claiming their rights as Cherokee citizens in the Indian Territory and they took no definite action in the matter until the final enrollment of the Five Civilized Tribes was to be made by the Commissioners.

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A short time previously we had moved to Houston, Texas, where my husband was engaged in business. In the month of April, 1894, bringing my youngest child with me I came to Muskogee to look for a location for myself and other members of the family and also for the purpose of making application before the authorized tribunal for enrollment under the laws and treaties of the United States, in which undertaking I was joined by my brother, James Daugherty, who had spent a number of years in the Cherokee Nation as a ranchman. We secured our evidence in support of our claim and accordingly presented our application to Henry L. Dawes, Chairman of the commission to the Five Civilized Tribes, who had jurisdiction over such claims. This claim was rejected by that body, as were other claims in wholesale fashion as appears on record in the files of the office of the Dawes Commission which are at the present time, 1937, in the United States Post Office Building, Muskogee. By right the case was appealed to the United States Court in Muskogee and final determination was to be made by Judge William M. Springer, Judge of said court for the Indian Territory. From various sources the

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applicants were led to believe they would receive very favorable action by the judge as they had good cases and were justly entitled to be enrolled. However, in this they were to be disappointed, as the judge called court at eight one night and without previously advising that these cases would be called for consideration, rejected the claimants, denying them the right to citizenship in the Cherokee Tribe to which they rightfully belonged according to all the evidence.

The cause of this change of mind on the part of the judge, so the claimants have been reliably informed by those in a position to know, was occasioned by the fact that an article of news appeared in the home town paper of Judge Springer, which was not favorable to him as a citizen of that town and which, as a news item only, reappeared in the Muskogee Evening Times, of which my husband, D. J. Eddleman, one of the applicants, was the editor. This aroused the judge's ire, and he expressed himself to the extent that he ruled against the applicants in their claim for citizenship in the Cherokee Tribe. This item was printed as news only and was not directed at the

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Judge; but it had this effect unfortunately for the applicants. This fact is well known to several lawyers who heard the Judge express himself as being favorable to their claim, and later heard him express himself in anger over the appearance over the item in the paper.

In 1885 my brother, James, came to the Indian Territory and established a cattle ranch which became one of the largest in the Territory. It was located near Catoosa and embraced some ten thousand acres or more. It extended to about the center of Tulsa now. He also, as a young man, helped survey the noted Chisholm Trail through the Territory that was named in honor of Jess Chisholm, an Indian, who had driven cattle from west Texas to Kansas. The trail started at San Antonio, Texas, and ended at Caldwell, Kansas.

At moving to Muskogee in 1894, my husband bought a newspaper plant from Theodore Gulick and Mr. Bishop who had started the newspaper. It was a morning paper, called the "Muskogee Morning Times" and was later changed to an evening paper, the "Muskogee Evening Times". After numerous changes, it is now the "Muskogee Times Democrat", owned and published by the Phoenix Company.



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We sold the paper in 1899 to Mr. Kessler, an experienced newspaper man from Kansas. My husband then retired from business and died in Muskogee, November 15, 1922. We were the parents of nine children, five of whom are living.