

ROSS, ELIZABETH.

EARLYDAY HOME.

#12229

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Elizabeth Ross, Investigator

November 24, 1937

Earlyday Home.

A few miles west of the old Arkansas town of Evansville, in Adair County, Oklahoma, there stands in fair state of preservation, one of the oldest homes in a locality in which a number of pioneer Cherokees once lived. The home is that which has been in possession of members of the Adair Family for a century.

The house was built in 1833 by Joel M. Bryan, who belonged to the Western Cherokee Nation. The Western Cherokees were often referred to as old settlers. Joel M. Bryan was attorney for the Western Cherokees during a number of years, representing them at Washington. Himself and family occupied the house for some three years or until 1837, when it was purchased by John Thompson Adair, who during his lifetime held various official positions under the Cherokee Government. In 1843 he was elected associate Judge of the Supreme Court of his nation and was elected thereafter every four years for a period of thirty years. As superintendent of the Cherokee National Female Seminary, Judge Adair was for sometime in charge of that institution while it stood in the Park Hill locality; first in 1879 and also when the new

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seminary was built at Tahlequah in 1889, while serving as superintendent of the latter institution. Judge Adair died December 24, 1891 at the age of 79 years.

The house built by Joel M. Bryan was owned by Judge Adair as he was usually referred to for a period of fifty-four years and was occupied by him except when in charge of the Female Seminary at Park Hill and at Tahlequah.

Following the death of Judge Adair and his wife the home was occupied by Samuel Houston Adair, the youngest son, and family who during the lifetime of his parents made their home with them. Later, a daughter of the son occupied the old home.

The home of Judge Adair with its vine-covered porches, during the lifetime of himself and devoted wife, was a haven for many young public school teachers who on numerous occasions occupied this home while teaching the Oak Grove school, situated a short distance across a ravine, in easy walking distance.

A never-failing spring was nearby, but a well had been drilled that water for household purposes might be obtained more easily.

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There was an orchard with a variety of apple trees; and other fruit trees of various kinds.

When the home was built in 1833 the Western Cherokees had lived in what is now the state of Oklahoma about four years and the outlying regions were sparsely populated, hills and woodlands stretching away for miles with only an occasional house to be seen along the narrow roads which led westward.

Upon the arrival of the Eastern Cherokees in 1839 and the establishment of a new Cherokee government in northeastern Indian Territory, the population became greatly increased. The nation was sub-divided into eight districts, increased several years later by an additional district, similar in size to some of the counties of today. The district in which the Adair home stood after the establishment of the Cherokee Nation was designated as the Goingsnake District. The name was derived from that of an earlyday native Cherokee Indian leader of considerable prominence who once served as speaker of the national council.

The old Adair home is a two-story building with chimneys and fireplaces, and porches similar to those with which many

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pioneer homes were equipped.

Judge Adair was married in 1840 to Miss Penelope Mayfield, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jess Mayfield, her father was of French and Cherokee descent. Judge and Mrs. Adair's children were Louvenia, Ruth, Oscar, John, Everett and Samuel Houston.

Authority: Personal recollections of the Judge Adair home. Some dates obtained from H. T. and S. S. O'Beirne's History of Indian Territory.