

ROSS, ELIZABETH

E. JANE-ROSS.

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Elizabeth Ross,
Field Worker,
May 19, 1937.

A Sketch of the life of Miss E.
Jane Ross, now deceased, (Cherokee).

Miss E. Jane Ross was born October 29, 1826, at the Deep Blue Spring, Wills Valley, northern Oklahoma. Her parents were John Golden Ross and Elizabeth Ross, the latter being the eldest daughter of Daniel Ross and Mollie McDonald Ross.

At the time of the removal from the "Old Nation" east of the Mississippi River, "Miss Jane", as she later became known to many, came with her parents by boat to the new Cherokee Nation, settling close to the Illinois River at or near Park Hill.

As schools were not yet established in the new nation, Jane was sent to a school for girls at Cane Hill, Arkansas, and there attended for a period of about three years, where she was found to be a bright and responsive student. At the age of sixteen she was sent by her uncle, Chief John Ross, to the Bethlehem Female Seminary, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. This school was and is a Moravian Institution, and was known for its thorough instruction and strict discipline. Possessed of an inquiring mind and being of a studious disposition she

ROSS, ELIZABETH.

E. JANE ROSS.

5846.

-2-

studied hard while completing the four years course of study.

because facilities for travel were not extensive at that period she remained in the East the entire four years. Upon graduating from Bethlehem Seminary, Jane returned home and began teaching in the public schools that were newly established. Her first appointment was at Hungry Mountain, located at a distance of about fifteen miles from her home.

Later, when the female Seminary was opened in 1850, "Miss Jane" was one of the early teachers. During much of the time the school was in session she was a member of the faculty, being a teacher when the Seminary was burned that beautiful Easter Sunday, April 10, 1887.

Her experiences during the Civil War were many and varied. She saw a near relative shot down in the creek at "Hunters Home".

One day, wholly unexpected, the enemy came in and took her leather belt made with a pocket containing \$700.00 in gold coins, her savings of many months. Her gold watch was also taken.

She, with Mrs. Hannah Mitchell, once went to Fort Gibson in an ox-wagon. Upon their return the oxen were so thirsty

ROSS, ELIZABETH.

INTERVIEW.

5846.

~~-2-~~

that as they neared home they broke into a rapid run and dashed through the gateway. There being a pole at the top of the gate, it was only by hastily ducking their heads that the ladies escaped without serious injury or death.

Miss Ross's death occurred April 2, 1894, at the home of Mrs. Minerva Keyes, Welling, Oklahoma.