

Eliza Ann Isenhour Research Report

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Objective

The objective of this research project is to discover the activities of Eliza Ann (Isenhour) Shults Meek in Indian Territory. Eliza was born March 1850 in Polk, Montgomery, Arkansas, and died 1898 in Elmore, Garvin, Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). She married William Henderson Shults on 4 July 1871 in Bell County, Texas. After his death in 1884, Eliza married Jacob Meek on 26 July 1885 in Brown County, Texas.

Limitations

Limitations for this project included no access to the Family History Library or Family History Centers due to COVID-19 closures. Many of the desired records were housed at these repositories so research followed available sources. Future research can explore additional records.

Results Summary

- Reviewed family stories that told of Eliza Ann Isenhour, a full-blooded Cherokee, living in Indian Territory.
- Researched the history of Indian Territory and the removal of the Five Civilized Tribes from the southeast U.S. west.
- Located a map and description of Indian Territory that explained the pull for settlers to this region.
- Reviewed life events for Eliza Ann: her birth, presence in the 1850, 1860, and 1870 census records of Arkansas and Texas.
- Researched the marriage of Eliza Ann to William Henderson Shults in 1871 and his land grant in Brown County, Texas.
- Located the 2nd marriage of Eliza Shults and Jacob Meek in 1885 in Brown County, Texas.
- Researched Indian Territory history and reasoned the 1887 General Allotment Act or Dawes Act was a motivator for the Meeks to move north to Indian Territory.
- Located the enrollment packet for Jacob Meek and found his statement that he was $\frac{1}{4}$ Choctaw and his sons $\frac{1}{8}$, with Eliza listed as a non-citizen.

- Created a table detailing the information from the enrollment packet in chronological order.
- Discovered the family came to Elmore, Indian Territory about 1892.
- Researched the area that would become Garvin County upon Oklahoma statehood.
- Located a newspaper record for Jacob Meek in 1894 in the area.
- Noted the death and burial of Eliza Ann (Isenhour) Shults Meek in Elmore, Indian Territory.
- Created a table detailing her children's further activities in Indian Territory.

Background Information

Family stories told of the tragic accident in 1884 that made Eliza Ann a widow with four young children and another on the way. Her husband, William Henderson Shults had been riding his horse and his younger brother, Dick Shults, whipped the horse in fun. The horse started bucking and William held on until blood ran from his ears. This caused internal injuries that resulted in his death.¹ Eliza remarried and had another son named Calvin by her second husband, Jacob Meek.² They moved north from Brown County, Texas, to Indian Territory by 1898 where Eliza died.³ Her descendants reported she was full blooded Cherokee.⁴

When did Eliza and Jacob move to Indian Territory? What was her life like? Research could answer these questions and shed light on this part of Eliza's life.

¹ Charles Leslie Shults, Eliza's grandson, told the story to his son, Bobby Gene Shults, who told it to Diana Elder. Charles was well acquainted with his great-uncle, Dick Shults, of Coconino County, Arizona, and likely heard the story from him.

² Charles Leslie Shults (Parker, Arizona) to [Bobby Gene Shults], letter, 27 October 1971; privately held by Diana Elder [Highland, Utah], 2020. [Bob Shults gave letter to Diana Elder]. "Grandma Shults was married to a man named Jake Meeks, Uncle Calvins dad. Uncle Calvin had 5 children. Otis is the oldest but I think Buster still lives on the old homeplace. which is near Ringling Okla. and it is on the Hi. way 70 between Ardmore and Waurika where Grandma Meek was buried & don't no. but I am pretty sure it was in that area."

³ Mrs. G.A. Wells (Monmouth, Oregon) to Bob [Bobby Gene Shults], letter, 6 December [1973]; privately held by Diana Elder, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE.], Highland, Utah, 2016. [Bob Shults gave letter to Diana Elder]. "My father dyed when I was 2 years old and my mother dyed when I was 16. . . at Elmore in the Chickasaw Nation and was buried there."

⁴ Don Stagner, Denison, Texas, [E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE] to Diana Elder, e-mail, 19 April 2003, SHULTS E-mail Correspondence File, Elder Research Files, privately held by Elder, (Highland, Utah). "My father often talked about the 'Shults' and he said that his grandmother, Eliza Ann Isenhour (Shults) was a full-blooded Cherokee and she was born in Arkansas, so this is a Family story that has been passed down."



William Henderson Shults and Eliza Ann Isenhour circa 1800 ⁵

History of Indian Territory

The concept of “Indian Territory” or “Indian Country” began in 1763 with the British Indian Reserve. The term referred to land set aside for the relocation of Native Americans and originally consisted of the land between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River. Following the American Revolution, new policies of the United States government resulted in Native Americans being pushed farther and farther west.

Treaties and laws resulted in the eventual removal in the 1830s of the Five Civilized Tribes from the southeast United States to an area in present day Oklahoma named “Indian Territory.” These tribes were named “Civilized” based on some tribal members’ adoption of practices such as Christianity, written constitutions, centralized governments, literacy, plantation slavery practices, and intermarriage with white Americans. The tribes tended to maintain stable political relations with the European Colonial powers and then with the United States government.

The Five Civilized Tribes were the Choctaw, Creek, Cherokee, Chickasaw, and Seminole. Once the tribes had relocated to Indian Territory, the United States government promised the lands would be free from white settlement. However, “white intruders,” or non-citizens began entering Indian Territory from the very beginning, generally being allowed to perform a service needed by the tribes. A major immigration took place starting in 1889 with the opening of the unassigned lands to non-Indian settlers.

⁵ William Henderson Shults and Eliza Ann Isenhour photographs, ca. 1880, Brown County, Texas; digital images ca. 2004, privately held by Diana Elder, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE], Highland, Utah. Bobby Gene Shults gave the physical copy of photos to Diana Elder in 2003, originally obtained circa 1965. The location, condition, and characteristics of the original are not known.

Boundaries and Geography in Indian Territory

The borders of Indian Territory were eventually reduced in size by various congressional acts. Each tribe had a specific boundary created by the United States government, shown in the map below.⁶



Basic land features of Indian territory created the pull factors for migration of settlers from other states into Indian Territory. A gazetteer and business directory of 1902-1905 gives this description:

“ With an area a little greater than that of the state of Indiana. With a climate whose health-giving breezes are nowhere excelled: with an altitude invigorating and inspiring; geographically of the south. But politically of the north; with a mixture of northern push and energy with southern comfort and hospitality; with scenery of rugged mountain and valley. Far stretching prairie and wooded hill: with soil as fertile as the valley of the Nile; with rainfall and other climate conditions favorable to the successful growing of all the crops of the temperate zone. Here is the ideal location for a home and the opportunity for agricultural and commercial enterprise.”⁷

⁶ Wikimedia Commons contributors, "File:Okterritory.png," *Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository*, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Okterritory.png&oldid=351718838> (accessed January 22, 2020).

⁷ *R.L. Polk & Co.'s Oklahoma and Indian Territory Gazetteer and Business Directory - 1902-1905*, pt. 1 (Chicago & Detroit : R.L Polk & Co, 1902-3); digitized book, *FamilySearch*, p. 70.

Eliza Ann Life Events

Eliza was born in Arkansas according to each census of her life. In 1850 she was living in the household of her parents, Barnet and Mary Ann Isenhour.⁸ Although no relationships were listed, there is no reason to suspect this family grouping. The family was enumerated in Polk Township of Montgomery County, Arkansas, on 19 September 1850. Eliza's age as six months gives her an approximate birth date of March 1850. Her parents, both Missouri born, had moved to Arkansas at least by 1848 with the birth of Sarah.

Barnet Isenhour	29 Mo
Mary Ann Isenhour	21 Mo
Sarah Isenhour	2 Ark
Eliza Ann Isenhour	6/12 Ark

By 1860, life had changed greatly for the Isenhour family with the death of husband and father, Barnett, in the mid-1850s. The 1860 census revealed Eliza Ann in the household of her stepfather, Esquire Blevins.⁹ This blended family included Blevins and Isenhour children as well as two young girls, Emily and California Blevins, half-sisters to Eliza. The younger Isenhour children, Texana and John were both reported as born in Texas, so the move was probably soon after Eliza's Arkansas birth in 1850. Their father, Barnett Isenhour, likely died about 1854 and Mary Ann remarried in 1855.

Esquire Blevins	34 Tenn
Mary A Blevins	33 Mo
Margaret A Blevins	14 Tx
Luke Blevins	12 Tx
Ricd Blevins	10 Tx
Mary A Blevins	8 Tx
Sarah E Icenhower	13 Ark
Eliza A Icenhower	10 Ark
Texana Icenhower	8 Tx
John Icenhower	6 Tx

⁸ 1850 U.S. Census, Montgomery County, Arkansas, population schedule, Polk Township, p. 405A (stamped), dwelling 6, family 6, Barnet Isenhour household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 February 2020); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 28.

⁹ 1860 U.S. Census, Johnson County, Texas, population schedule, Comanche Peak P.O., page 209 (penned), dwelling 167, family 168, Eliza A. Icenhower in Esquire Blevins household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 12 February 2020); citing NARA microfilm publication M653 roll 1298.

Genealogy Research Report by Diana Elder

Emily P Blevins	3 Tx
California Blevins	1 Tx

By 1870, the Blevins / Isenhour family had moved to Coryell County, Texas. The Isenhour children were listed by the name of Blevins.¹⁰ The unusual name of “Texana” as well as “California” identifies this as the same household as that of 1860, Johnson County, Texas. The birth year of 1850 remained constant for Eliza Ann Isenhour.

Squire Blevins	45 Tenn
Polly Ann Blevins	44 Mo
Richard Blevins	21 Tx
Eliza Ann Blevins	20 Ark
Texana Blevins	18 Tx
Polly Ann Blevins	18 Tx blind
John B Blevins	17 Tx
Tennessee Blevins	14 Tx
California Blevins	12 Tx
Huel Blevins	10 Tx
Jane Blevins	7 Tx
Martha Blevins	5 Tx
Jacob Blevins	4 Tx

Soon after the 1870 census enumeration, Eliza married William Henderson Shults on 4 July 1871 in Bell County, Texas.¹¹ When new land opened up further west in Brown County, William applied for a grant from the state of Texas.¹² In 1878 he stated that “he is now a Bona Fide settler upon 160 acres of Land, that he believes to be of the public vacant lands of the State of Texas; that he is improving said Land as a Homestead, and has no other; and further that he is a married man. and makes this Affidavit

¹⁰ 1870 U.S. Census, Coryell County, Texas, population schedule, Precinct 2, p. 10 (penned), p.274 (stamped), dwelling 60, family 60, Elizabeth Blevins in Squire Blevins household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 February 2020); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1581.

¹¹ "Texas, County Marriage Records, 1837-1965," W H Shults and Eliza A Isenhower, 04 Jul 1871, database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QV14-HR8R> : accessed 12 February 2020); citing Marriage, citing Bell, Texas, United States, Texas State Library, Archives Division, and various Texas county clerks; FHL microfilm 981,034, image 351.

¹² Texas General Land Office, Brown County, W.H. Shultz, file no. 1076, Travis Preemption, abstract 1100, 1871, *Texas GLO* (<https://s3.glo.texas.gov/glo/history/archives/land-grants/LandGrantsWorklist.cfm?> : accessed 15 February 2020).

for the purpose of obtaining a Home. Said Land is situated in Brown County.” The survey and map reveal the location of the land and the neighbors.¹³

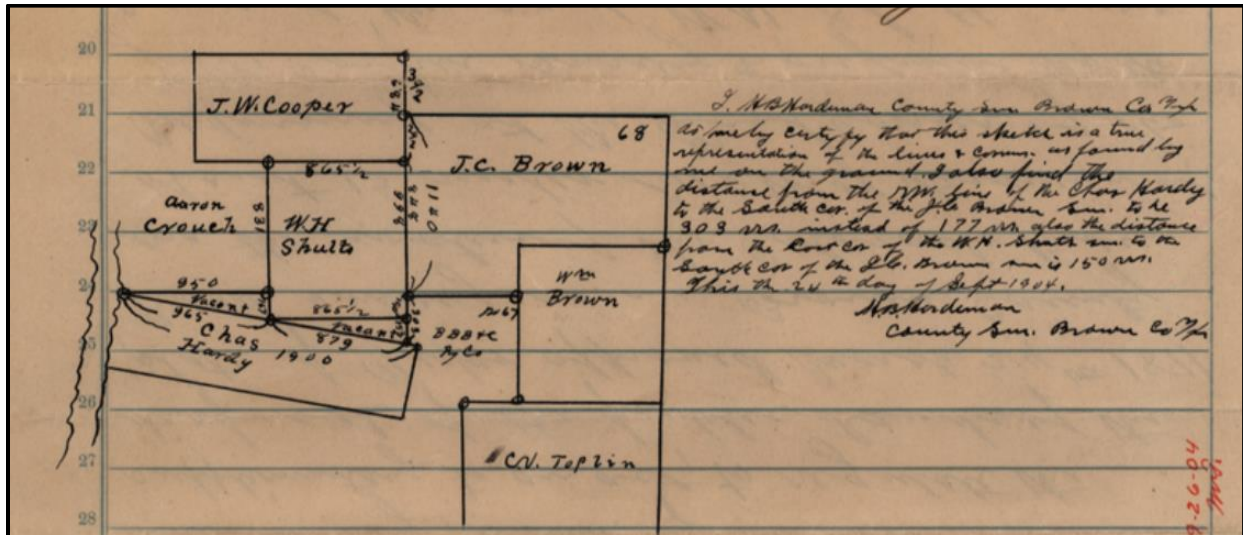


Figure 1 Survey Map of W.H. Shults Land from the Field Notes

The young family is listed only once on the census with William, in 1880.¹⁴ Four children had been born to William and Eliza since their marriage in 1871. This was the first census to name relationships and the birthplaces for parents. This is also the first census with a conflicting birth year for Eliza - that of 1848. Perhaps William was the unknown informant and estimated his wife to be younger than her true age of 30.

William H. Shults, head	30 Tx Miss Miss
Eliza A. Shults, wife	28 Ark Penn Ark Ark
Mary R. Shults, daughter	7 Tx Tx Ark
Sarah C. Shults, daughter	5 Tx Tx Ark
William H. C. Shults, son	3Tx Tx Ark
Rosa A. Shults, daughter	2/12 Tx Tx Ark

¹³ Texas General Land Office, Brown County, W.H. Shultz, file no. 1076, Travis Preemption, abstract 1100, image 9, "Corrected Field Notes."

¹⁴ 1880 U.S. Census, Brown County, Texas, population schedule, enumeration district (ED) 26, sheet 432D (stamped), p.12 (penned), dwelling 93, family 96, Eliza A. in William H. Shults household; digital image, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 February 2020); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1292.

In 1884, William died of injuries from the horse accident discussed previously and Eliza was left a widow expecting another child. Henderson Elizabeth Shults was born 17 February 1885 and named for her deceased father.¹⁵ With several young children, Eliza needed to remarry to economically survive on the frontier. Her sister, Sarah had also died recently, possibly in childbirth, leaving behind her husband, Jacob Meek, and 9-year-old son, James H. Meek.¹⁶ With both their spouses deceased, Eliza Ann (Isenhour) Shults and Jacob Meek (widower of Sarah Isenhour) married on 25 July 1885.¹⁷ Their son, Calvin Wesley Meek was born about 1887.¹⁸

Move to Indian Territory

Beginning in 1887, a series of legislative acts of the United States government resulted in the creation of three federal court divisions within Indian Territory: the Northern District, Southern District, and Central District. By the late 1890s all the real authority in Indian Territory was held by these federal courts.¹⁹ Prior to 1889, non-citizens could not own land in Indian Territory because the land was communal property of the respective Indian Tribe. As a result, a lease system was incorporated allowing a settler to lease land from the Native Americans.

Under the 1887 General Allotment Act, also known as the Dawes Act, the communal lands of the Five Civilized Tribes began to be parceled out to individual members of the tribe. Indian reservations

¹⁵ U.S. Social Security Administration, "Social Security Death Index," database, *Ancestry* (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 9 Aug 2016), entry for Henderson E. Coffman, SS no. 569-70-0068.

¹⁶ Ancestry Member Trees, "Shults_Kelsey," facts for Sarah E. Isenhour, 1848-1885, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : access 19 Apr 2020). Additional Ancestry trees identify George Meek, born 1884 and died 1885 as another son.

¹⁷ Brown County, Texas, Marriage Records Vol. A, page 206, Meek-Shults, 25 July 1885, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GP3Y-9CFV?> : accessed 13 February 2020; citing FHL Microfilm 001,533,474., image 120.

¹⁸ Oklahoma and Indian Territory, Dawes Census Cards for Five Civilized Tribes, 1898-1914, Calvin W. Meek, #15739, Choctaw > By Blood > Field no. 5850, Maxwell, I.T. 15 Sept. 1898; images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 14 February 2020); citing NARA at Ft. Worth, Texas, NAI Number 241747, Record Group 75.

¹⁹ "United States Court for the Indian Territory," *Oklahoma Historical Society* (<https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=UN017> : accessed 13 May 2020.)

were surveyed and established. To qualify for a parcel of land, an individual was required to give their name, tribe, membership designation, age group, and percentage of tribal blood by inheritance.²⁰

When did Jacob Meek and Eliza Ann move north to Indian Territory? Were they part of the land grab of 1889 or did they qualify for tribal membership? Was Eliza a full-blooded Cherokee? Was Jacob part of the Five Civilized Tribes?

The process of enrolling as a member of the Five Civilized Tribes involved filling out an application and proving residence in Indian Territory as of 28 June 1898. Because land disputes were common in this era, many records were often generated and became part of an individual's enrollment packet. Searching for Jacob and Eliza Meek resulted in the discovery that Jacob Meek was ¼ Choctaw, their son Calvin Meek was ½ Choctaw, and Eliza had no Native American bloodlines and was a non-citizen.²¹

RESIDENCE: _____ COUNTY: _____						
POST OFFICE: <u>Maxwell, I. T.</u>						
Dawes' Roll No.	NAME.	Relationship to Person first Named.	AGE.	SEX.	BLOOD.	Y
15737	Meek, Jacob 60		60	M	1/4	
15738	2 " James H. 26	Son	26	"	1/8	
15739	3 " Calvin W. 5	"	15	"	1/8	
1434	4 " Ada	wife of no. 2	23	F.	I. W.	

Figure 2 Index Card A for Jacob, James H., Calvin W., and Ada Meek

²⁰ "Allotment," *Oklahoma Historical Society*, (<https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php> : accessed 13 May 2020).

²¹ "U.S., Native American Enrollment Cards for the Five Civilized Tribes, 1898-1914," Index and Final rolls of Citizens and Freedmen of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Tribes, Meek, p. 332, column 2, no. 15737-9, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 April 2020.)

TRIBAL ENROLLMENT OF PARENTS.					
Name of Father.	Year.	County.	Name of Mother.	Year.	County.
Simon Meek	dead	non-citizen	Laura Meek	dead	non-citizen
No. 1			Sarah E. Meek	"	"
No. 1			Eliza A. Meek	"	"
L. D. Meek		non city	Eliza J. Meek	"	"

Figure 3 Index Card - B for Jacob, James H., Calvin W., and Ada Meek

Jacob Meek's enrollment packet is lengthy and reveals many additional details about the family.²²

Jacob Meeks says: I am 56. I am father of James H. and Calvin W. Meek, admitted by Dawes Commission December 2nd 1896. I have lived for 6 years where I now reside in the Chickasaw Nation. I live near Elmore. I came from Texas. I have never lived in the Choctaw Nation. I have lived continuously in the Chickasaw Nation since I first came.

The file for Jacob Meek et al. is made up of multiple pages that include court testimony and decisions. The dates are confusing. To make sense of the information, a table was created to sort the information chronologically and determine when Jacob and Eliza first came to Indian Territory with their blended family of hers (Shults children), his (James H. Meek), and theirs, (Calvin W. Meek). (See Appendix A for the complete table). The main points discovered within the file are included here creating a timeline of the events.

Date	Event	Details
1892	Move to Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory	From 1898 examination (undated document, estimated date based on the age of Jacob Meek as 56).
1892	Move to Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory	From 1901 examination of James H. Meek
8 Sep 1896	Application for admission to the Choctaw Nation	Jacob Meek and sons, James H. Meek and Calvin Meek.

²² "U.S., Native American Applications for Enrollment in Five Civilized Tribes, 1898-1914," Choctaw > Choctaw by Blood > 05824-05891, entry for Jacob Meek, et al., # 5320, images 762- 809 of 2274, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 11 Apr 2020); citing NARA, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, RG 75, M1301.

2 Dec 1896	Admission to citizenship in the Choctaw Nation by blood	Jacob Meek and sons, James H. Meek and Calvin Meek.
23 June 1898	Applicants were residents in good faith of Indian Territory	Jacob Meek and sons, James H. Meek (age 22) and Calvin Meek.
1898	Examination of Jacob Meek	Age 56 have lived for 6 years near Elmore. Came from Texas, lived continuously in the Chickasaw Nation, never in the Choctaw Nation.
11 Sep 1899	Marriage of James H. Meek and Ada Meek	Southern District, bride and groom both of Chickasha
4 Dec 1901	Examination of James H. Meek	Age 25 of Maxwell, Chickasaw Nation, lived here about 9 years, lived in Texas about 6,8, or 9 years. Before that lived in Indian Territory. Born in Texas, never lived in the Choctaw Nation.

Early Garvin County

The records showed that Eliza and Jacob Meek and family came to the Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory by about 1892. They settled in the area that would become Garvin County, Oklahoma, in 1907 upon statehood.²³ An early history of the area explained that the area known as Washita Valley was composed almost entirely of sod.²⁴ An early settler named Smith Paul built the first home in the 1850s and began clearing and cultivating the land. He discovered once the sod was broken the soil produced well. The area began to be known as “Smith Paul’s Valley” and by the time the Shults/Meek family arrived the name had been shortened to just Paul’s Valley.

Before the early 1900s, the land belonged to the Chickasaw Nation and could not be personally owned.²⁵ “A man could farm all he could enclose with a fence or break with a plow.” The history of Garvin County discussed the impact of the coming of the Santa Fe Railroad in 1887. A “lively settlement” grew up in the “valley at the old townsite”²⁶ that included a store, stage stops, a wagon yard, and

²³ *Handybook for Genealogists: United States of America*, 10th ed. (Draper, Utah: Everton Pub., 2002), Garvin County, Oklahoma, pp. 557-563.

²⁴ Pauls Valley Chamber of Commerce, *From Bluestem to Golden Trend : A Pictorial History of Garvin County, Covering Both the Old and New* (Fort Worth : University Supply and Equipment Co., 1957); *FamilySearch* (<http://www.familysearch.org/library/books/idurl/1/614794> : accessed 10 April 2020), image 6 of 200.

²⁵ *Ibid*, image 7-8.

²⁶ *Ibid*, image 9.

number of log houses. The railroad was granted a 50 feet easement on either side of the track that went completely through the Chickasaw Nation. As in other areas, the coming of the railroad also meant the coming of settlers. The fertile valley soil drew settlers from all over.

Jacob and Eliza Meek settled in the small community of Elmore City.²⁷ The Church of Christ held gospel meetings in a tent or under a brush arbor, then began holding weekly services in the log schoolhouse.²⁸ Some of Eliza's descendants belonged to the Church of Christ so possibly this was a family affiliation.

Elmore was established on 11 June 1890, located north of Fort Arbuckle. Three newspapers served the area: *The Daily Ardmorite*, *The Elmore Democrat*, and the *Pauls Valley Democrat*. A search of all three newspapers revealed only one article mentioning Jacob Meek from an issue of the *Daily Ardmorite* dated 23 October 1894.²⁹ With Jacob's declaration that he had come to Indian Territory about 1892 and that he lived in Elmore, this is almost certainly referring to him.

Synopsis of the Day's Business Turned Out From Judge Stuart's Court Today.

The following cases were disposed of in the U.S. Court today, Charles .B. Stewart. judge. The following pleas of guilty were entered: Jacob Meek. disturbing the peace: \$15.

²⁷ "U.S., Native American Applications for Enrollment in Five Civilized Tribes, 1898-1914," Choctaw > Choctaw by Blood > 05824-05891, entry for Jacob Meek, et al., # 5320, image 787 of 2274.

²⁸ Pauls Valley Chamber of Commerce, *From Bluestem to Golden Trend*, image 150 of 200.

²⁹ "Synopsis of the Day's Business Turned Out From Judge Stuart's Court Today," *Daily Ardmorite*, Tuesday, 23 October 1894, Ardmore, Oklahoma, Vol. 1 P. 4, col. 3, Jacob Meek; *Genealogy Bank* (<https://www.genealogybank.com/> : accessed 10 April 2020).

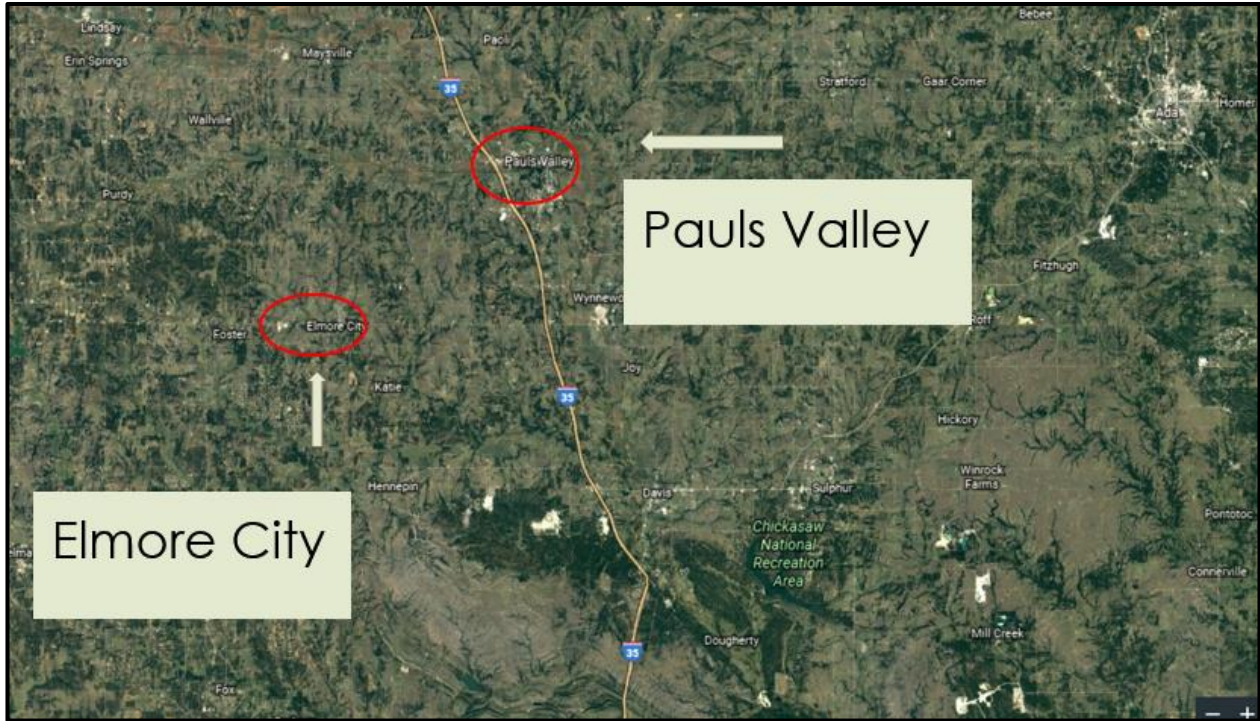


Figure 4 Location of Elmore City and Paul's Valley, Google Earth

In 1898, Eliza Ann (Isenhour) Shults Meek died and was buried in Elmore, about six years after her arrival in Indian Territory with her second husband and children.³⁰ With the death of their father in 1884 in Texas, the Shults children were left parentless. All had followed their mother and stepfather to Indian Territory and were listed on the 1900 census in Chickasaw Nation. All but the oldest daughter also married in Indian Territory. The following table details Eliza’s children by William Henderson Shults in Indian Territory.³¹

Date	Event	Place
11 Dec 1898	Marriage of W.H. Shults and A.D. Royston	Of Elmore, Indian Territory, Southern District
5 Nov 1899	Marriage of Lou Anna Shults and G.A. Wells	Of Maxwell, Indian Territory, Southern District
1900	Census for Alice (Shults) Davis and Henderson Shults	Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory, Township 3

³⁰ Mrs. G.A. Wells (Monmouth, Oregon) to Bob [Bobby Gene Shults], letter, 6 December [1973]; privately held by Diana Elder, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE.], Highland, Utah, 2016. [Bob Shults gave letter to Diana Elder]. "My father dyed when I was 2 years old and my mother dyed when I was 16. . . at Elmore in the Chickasaw Nation and was buried there."

³¹ Ancestry Public Family Tree, Shults_Kelsey, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 April 2020).

1900	Census for William Huston Shults	Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory, Township 2
1900	Census for Annie (Shults) Wells	Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory,
14 Aug 1904	Marriage of Henderson Elizabeth Shults and Jess Harmon Coffman	Indian Territory, Southern District
Mar 1905	Death of Mary Rachel (Shults) Stagner	Maxwell, Indian Territory

Conclusion

This research project sought to discover and document the life of Eliza Ann Isenhour in Indian Territory. Family stories stated she was full-blooded Cherokee and as in many family stories, there was an element of truth in that one.

Born in Arkansas in 1850, Eliza seemed to always live on the frontier. After her birth in Arkansas, her family moved to Texas where her father, Barnett Isenhour, died about 1855. Her mother married Squire Blevins and Eliza joined a large mixed household of Blevins and Isenhour children, residing in Johnson County, Texas, by 1860. The Blevins/Shults household moved again and were enumerated in 1870 in Coryell County, Texas. Eliza married William Henderson Shults on 4 July 1871 in Bell County, Texas, and when new land opened up further west in Brown County, moved to a new frontier.

William died in 1884 of an unfortunate accident and with several small children to care for, Eliza married Jacob Meek, her brother-in-law. Her sister, Sarah Isenhour Meek, had recently died, so the Shults/Meek families formed a new household.

With the land allotment act of 1887, white settlers began moving into Indian Territory. Eliza and Jacob Meek along with the Shults and Meek children moved north to the area that would become Garvin County, Oklahoma, by 1892. In 1896 Jacob Meek and his two sons, James and Calvin Meek, applied for and were granted citizenship in the Choctaw Nation by virtue of blood. Jacob stated he was $\frac{1}{4}$ Choctaw and his sons, $\frac{1}{8}$ Choctaw. Eliza was listed as a non-citizen with no tribal bloodline, dispelling the myth of her Cherokee heritage.

The enrollment file for Jacob Meek revealed his arrival in the Chickasaw Nation by 1892 and his settlement in Elmore, a small community in the area. Eliza died in 1898 and was buried near Elmore. Her children all lived in Indian Territory for a time with some of them marrying there. They would have seen the great changes that came to the area as Indian Territory transitioned to the state of Oklahoma in 1907.

Future Research Suggestions

- Search Pontotoc County: History of Pontotoc County, Oklahoma, FHL 976.669 H2 for additional information on early settlements in Indian Territory.
- Search the 1890 census of Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory : and other records FHL 970.3 C432 to see if the Shults/Meek family had arrived by 1890.
- Continue to search Indian Territory newspapers for mention of Jacob Meek.
- Search for Shults or Meek leases: United States, Office of Indian Affairs, Tahlequah District, "Agricultural leases in the Tahlequah District, 1877-1905," (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma : Oklahoma Historical Society, Indian Archives Division, 1976), digitized microfilm, Family Search. Available at a FHC.

Appendix A

Chronological Ordering of Events from Jacob Meek, et al. vs. Choctaw Nation³²

Date	Summary	Image #
5 Sep 1896	Case titled "Jacob Meek, et al. vs. Choctaw Nation," Jacob Meek made original application under the act of 10 Jun 1896 for the admission of himself and his children, James H. Meek and Calvin W. Meek.	766
2 Dec 1896	Jacob, James H. and Calvin W. Meek were admitted to citizenship in the Choctaw Nation as citizens by blood, under the act of Congress approved 10 June 1896, (29 Stat. 321)	766
3 Sep 1897	From the 2 Dec 1896 decision of the Commission, an appeal was taken to the U.S. Court, Central District, in citizenship case # 189 which the court dismissed on 3 Sep 1897 for the reason that the same was not prosecuted within the time fixed by law.	766
28 Jun 1898	All of the applicants herein were residents in good faith of Indian Territory on 28 June 1898, all applicants listed upon census cards in 1898 having been first examined as to such fact, although their testimony was not reduced to writing.	766
15 Sep 1898	James H. Meek, 22 years of age, the son of Jacob Meek of Elmore, Indian Territory was listed for enrollment as a citizen of the Choctaw Nation having been admitted to such citizenship on 2 Dec 1896 under provisions of the Act of Congress of 10 Jun 1896. Ada Meek married James H Meek on 3 Sep 1898, [incorrect date, should be 1899] a Chickasha. At the time of marriage, her husband lived in Chickasaw Nation for about 9 years. Before that he lived in Texas; She is a 2nd cousin to James H. Meek James H. Meek on Choctaw roll card number 5320. The case was appealed by the Choctaw Nation to the U.S. Court for the Central District, the appeal dismissed 3 Sep 1897, court case No. 189.	787 772
11 Sep 1899	Marriage of Jas. H. Meek and Ada Meek, recorded in Book D, page 285, Southern Dist. License states James H. Meek of Chickasha, 22 years and Miss Ada Meek, of Chickasha age 20 years. Marriage certificate shows L.S. Scott, a Minister of the Gospel performed the marriage on 3 September 1899.	775,776
23 Nov 1901	To James H. Meek, Maxwell, Indian Territory, Receipt of your letter of the 18th instant stating you are the son of Jacob Meek and with your father was admitted to citizenship in the Choctaw Nation and since that time have married and desire your wife to be enrolled as a citizen by intermarriage. Our records show that on 15 September 1898, James H. Meek, 22 years of age, the son of Jacob Meek of Elmore, Indiana Territory was listed for	787

³² "U.S., Native American Applications for Enrollment in Five Civilized Tribes, 1898-1914," Choctaw > Choctaw by Blood > 05824-05891, entry for Jacob Meek, et al., # 5320, images 762- 809 of 2274, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 11 Apr 2020); citing NARA, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, RG 75, M1301.

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	enrollment.	
4 Dec 1901	<p>Application of Ada Meek, examination by the commission: Ada Meek, age 22, of Maxwell, I.T. Chickasaw Nation, lives in Chickasaw Nation, has lived there about 12 years, Before lived in Texas, but wasn't born there; before Texas lived "all over the country pretty near. We lived in Kansas; that's where I was born." Father: Lorenzo Dell Meek, not living. Mother Liza Jane Meek, living, both white people and citizens of the U.S., neither recognized as citizens by blood of any tribe of Indian, making an application to be enrolled by intermarriage of James H. Meek, a citizen by blood, enrolled by this Commission as a citizen of the Choctaw nation.</p> <p>Ada Meek personally testified as to her marriage to James H. Meek and offered her marriage license and certificate.</p>	<p>772</p> <p>790</p>
4 Dec 1901	<p>Examination of James H. Meek, age 25, of Maxwell, Chickasaw Nation, lived here about 9 years, lived in Texas previously about 6, 8, or 9 years. Before that lived in Indian Territory. Born in Texas, never lived in the Choctaw Nation. Father: Jacob Meek, mother: Sarah Meek. A citizen by blood of the Choctaw Nation, not always been recognized as a citizen by blood of the Choctaw nation, recognized since 1896. Became a citizen in 1896</p>	773-4
5 Mar 1902	<p>To Ada Meeks, Maxwell, Indian Territory Your application will be taken up for final consideration by the Commission on 15 April 1902.</p>	777
15 Apr 1902	<p>The application of Ada Meek for enrollment as a citizen of the Choctaw Nation was called for final consideration and no appearance made by or on behalf of the applicant or on behalf of the Choctaw Nation by its legal representatives.</p>	791
23 Jan 1904	<p>No further action be taken in connection with land allotment until a final decision by the Choctaw and Chickasaw Citizenship Court in the case of Julia London, et al., vs. Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, No. 55 on the South McAlester Docket. To decide the question of what compliance by the applicants or their ancestors with the 3rd or 14th articles of the treaty of 1830 was necessary to be entitled to enrollment and distribution of tribal property of the Choctaws and Chickasaws.</p> <p>Protest filed with the Commission by the attorneys for the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations dated 23 January 1904</p>	<p>765</p> <p>796</p>
	<p>Decision: From the census card record, on 15 Sep 1898, Jacob Meek appeared before the Commission and made personal application for the enrollment of himself and his children, James H. Meek and Calvin W. Meeks as citizens by blood of the Choctaw Nation.</p>	766
24 Feb 1904	<p>To James H. Meek: You are hereby advised that under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior of 18 Nov 1903, and upon a protest filed with the Commission by the attorneys for the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations dated 23 Jan 1904, no further action will be taken relative to your enrollment until further instructed by the Secretary of the Interior</p>	796

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7 Mar 1904	To Mansfield, McMurray & Cornish, South McAlester, Indian Territory, In compliance with your request of 2 March 1904 there is enclosed a copy of the testimony of Ada Meek of 4 Dec 1901 in the matter of her application for enrollment as an intermarried citizen of the Choctaw Nation.	798
31 Aug 1904	To Riley & Cotner, Attorney at Law, Tishomingo, Indian Territory Receipt is acknowledged in your letter of the 23rd inst. requesting to be advised relative to the status of the case of Jacob Meek et al. and requesting that your names be entered as attorneys of record in said case. The application is now under consideration and its probable that a decision will be reached within a short time.	800
15 Oct 1904	[Following an appeal] It is therefore the opinion of this Commission that Jacob Meek, James H. Meek and Calvin W. Meek should be enrolled as citizens by blood of the Choctaw Nation in accordance with the acts of Congress of 28 Jun 1898 (30 Stat.,495) and 1 Jul 1902 (32 Stat.641). Muskogee, Indian Territory	767
31 Oct 1904	To Jacob Meek, Meek, Indian Territory You are requested to advise this office at once, in the matter of your enrollment as a citizen by blood of the Choctaw Nation, the degree of Choctaw blood possessed by you.	801
31 Oct 1904	File Folder: Choc 5850, Jacob Meek, transferred from Choc # 5320	762
	In the matter of the application for the enrollment as citizens by blood of the Choctaw Nation of Jacob Meek, et al. 7-5320 (Choctaw roll card #)	763
	Jacob Meek: age 56, father of James H. and Calvin W. Meek, admitted by the Dawes Commission 2 Dec 1896. Have lived for 6 years near Elmore. Came from Texas, lived continuously in the Chickasaw Nation, never in the Choctaw Nation	764
11 Nov 1904	To Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes, Muskogee Received your letter stating for me to advise your office the degree of Choctaw Blood possessed by me. It is ¼ one fourth Choctaw by Blood. Jacob Meek	802
15 Nov 1904	To Chilion Riley, Attorney at Law, Tishomingo, Indian Territory Dear Madam, Receipt is hereby acknowledged of your letter of No 12, asking the status of the application of Ada Meek, wife of James H. Meek. The commission has not passed upon the application and before it can, she will need to appear in person at the Commission's office in Muskogee for the purpose of testifying relative to her intermarried status on 25 Sep 1902. Waiting for a letter from Jacob Meek on the amount of Choctaw blood.	803
16 Nov 1904	To Jacob Meek, Maxwell, Indian Territory, Receipt is hereby acknowledged of your letter of November 11 and made a matter of record in your case.	804
29 Dec 1904	To Ada Meek, Farris, Indian Territory Receipt of letter of Dec 24 asking the status of your application for enrollment. You will need to appear in person before the Commission in Muskogee for the purpose of testifying relative to your intermarried status on 25 Sep 1902, the date of the ratification of the act of Congress approved 1 Jul 1902.	805

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5 Jan 1905	<p>Examination by the Commission of Ada Meek Post Office Address: Farris, Choctaw Nation, age 26, white woman, claim rights by intermarriage to James H. Meek, a Choctaw by blood, married 3 September 1899; since the marriage he has lived in the Chickasaw and sometimes in the Choctaw nation.</p> <p>Examination of James H. Meek: A Choctaw by blood, Post Office Ferris, Choctaw Nation, 2nd cousin by marriage</p>	779 -780
7 Feb 1905	<p>Decision: Ada Meek was lawfully married on 3 September 1899 a recognized and enrolled citizen by blood of the Choctaw Nation whose name appears as No. 15738 upon the lists prepared by this Commission under the Act of Congress 1 July 1902 (32 Stat. 641).</p>	781
22 Apr 1905	<p>To Jacob Meek, Farris, Indian Territory Receipt of letter of April 13th asking if Ada Meek has been approved. On 7 Feb 1905, the Commission granted the application of Ada Meek for enrollment as an intermarried citizen of the Choctaw Nation but her name has not yet been placed upon a schedule of intermarried citizens of the Choctaw Nation.</p>	806
17 Jun 1905	<p>To Ada Meek, Farris, Indian Territory Receipt of letter of June 13th, 1905 asking if your enrollment has been approved by the Secretary of the Interior. You are advised that on June 12, 1905, you were approved as an intermarried citizen of the Choctaw Nation.</p>	807
10 Jul 1905	<p>To Jacob Meek, Cornish, Indian Territory Receipt of letter of 3 July 1905 advising the change of your post office address from Farris to Cornish.</p>	808
16 Jan 1906	<p>To R.M. Rainey, Atoka, Indian Territory Receipt of your letter of Jan 6, 1906 asking the status of the citizenship of Calvin W. Meeks, an applicant as a citizen of the Choctaw Nation, whose uncle, aunts and cousins have all be enrolled but who you understand was denied by the Citizenship Court. Be advised that Calvin W. Meeks, now about 18 years of age, son of Jacob and Eliza A. Meeks has been enrolled as a citizen by blood of the Choctaw Nation and his enrollment as such approved by the Sec. of the Int. If this is not the person to whom you refer and you will give his age, the names of his parents, etc. the inquiry will receive further consideration.</p>	809