

# Charles Henry Benton

About 1877, Mary met and married Charles Henry Benton a full-blood Choctaw whose brothers included the famous Choctaw statesman Robert Benton. Thomas Benton, the renowned Methodist circuit preacher, also may have been a brother, as well as Davis Benton. It is believed their father was Wahcahtambee (also rendered Wa-ka-tombi) and mother Shakaphoma, as is listed on Robert's Dawes enrollment. Charles died before the enrollment, and, so far, no written record has been found of his parents. It is believed the family came from Louisiana toward the end of the migration in 1853. When students went to the Choctaw Academy in Kentucky they were arbitrarily given white names. According to family tradition, the name Benton was chosen because it was seen on another man's shirt. It also was a fact that Indians with white names fared much better even in Indian Territory. Robert's wife was the renowned Jane McCurtain Benton. It is thought Charles was from the Sugar Loaf District (not to be confused with Sugar Loaf Mountain, but Le Flore County). Robert Benton was also from this area. He was a teacher at Buffalo Creek School in 1885, earning \$43.80 for the quarter. In 1884 Charles was also the first judge at Hachubby, near Poteau. In Heavener, Charles's gravestone stands alone, in a pasture, close to the ruins of an old house that may have been his and Mary's home place. His grave is one mile west of Hodgen in the west part of Section 11, T 4, R25, about midway from North to South. Property owned (1993) by Sam & Edwin Johnston of Hodgen.

1885 Choctaw Nation Census Sugarloaf County Indian Territory (Oklahoma) 483. Benton, Charles 42 M Indian Farmer 100 acres 484. Benton, Mary 28 F Indian 485. Benton, Ida Benton 13 F Indian 486. Benton, Mathies 8 M Indian 487. Benton, Hepzibeh 7 M Indian 488. Benton, Theoda 5 M Indian 489. Benton, Charles Jr. 1 M Indian 490. Benton, Fleming 1 M Indian

I hereby certify that above and foregoing transcript of the Census taken in Sugar Loaf County of the 1st Judicial District that is now on record book and are on file in my office is a true and correct copy.

In witnesseth hereto I have affixed the Seal of the Choctaw Nation This 16th day of July, 1886

Thompson McKinney National Secretary, Choctaw Nation