

**JESSIE ELIZABETH  
RANDOLPH  
MOORE  
1871-1956**



**CHICKASAW  
LAWYER,  
POET AND  
HISTORIAN**

The odyssey of the Chickasaw Nation's Love family began when Henry and Sarah Love traveled from Mississippi in 1837 during the tribe's removal. Henry was an influential tribal leader, who signed the Treaty of 1834 in Washington DC and served as a member of the Chickasaw Commission in charge of tribal business for many years. Some Chickasaw Nation members settled in Coffee Bend, an area of rich bottom land, which became one of the most thriving sections of Chickasaw Nation in their early territory settlement days.

Their daughter Charlotte Love married North Carolina native James Tyson in Mississippi and moved near Fort Washita in 1844. Love County was named for Judge Overton "Sobe" Love at statehood, who owned large tracts of land. Their daughter Sarah Tyson married Virginia native William Colville Randolph, who served under the commander of the Confederate Indian Forces in Indian Territory. After the Civil War, Love County was in an economic slump as plantation farming was no longer profitable. William became a successful cattleman in 1874 in the White Bead Hill region north of the Washita River in Pontotoc County.

Their daughter Jessie Elizabeth Randolph was born in January 1871 in Coffee Bend, Bryan County, on the Washita River. The family stressed education so the first school she attended was a log schoolhouse William built on the ranch. The family moved to Gainesville, Texas a few years later so she could study at St. Xavier in Denison and Kidd's Seminary (later Kidd-Key College) in Sherman, the alma mater of the daughters of many prominent families from Indian Territory.

The Randolphs returned to the ranch in Chickasaw Nation where Jessie taught school at Methodist school Pierce Institute for a year in 1884 and became a charter member of the White Bead Hill Presbyterian Church established in 1886. She married Elisha Mac Moore in 1889 and they made their home in Purcell for the next ten years, while Elisha served for a time as U. S. Deputy Marshal of the District.

In 1901 they moved to Pauls Valley where Jessie became the Oklahoma Deputy Clerk of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals from 1914 until 1924. She was admitted to the Oklahoma bar to practice law in 1923 during a time when Indians were considered "second class citizens". Jessie also wrote poetry, including "The Five Great Indian Nations", about the tribes' involvement in the Civil War on behalf of the Confederacy, and "Lines Written on an Indian's Face". She also played a vital role in gathering data and preserving Oklahoma history while serving on the Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors from 1929 to 1956.

In 1924, Jessie was appointed Oklahoma Assistant Commissioner of Charities and Corrections. In 1926 she won the election as Clerk of the State Supreme Court, the second woman in Oklahoma history elected to a state office. At the end of her term of office as the Depression began, Moore was appointed to head the Women's Division of Emergency Relief in Oklahoma County. She planned and organized the entire setup for Oklahoma's Emergency Relief, which was adopted nationwide in 1933.

She was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1937. She headed the Indian organization of the Oklahoma Democratic Party in the campaign for the election of Governor Robert S. Kerr in 1942. As a Democratic Presidential Elector in 1940 and 1944, she traveled to Washington DC to participate in the election of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In the 1950s she served as a member of the Chickasaw Council under its Governors Douglas H. Johnston and Floyd Maytubby. Jessie officially represented the Chickasaw Nation in the September 1954 dedication of the new Chickasaw Wing of the U. S. Air Force in Memphis, where she documented the official events. She died in October 1956 at age 85 in Purcell. Her funeral in Pauls Valley included pallbearers Chickasaw Governor Maytubby and Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice Earl Welch.