

LYDIA LOWREY
by Mrs. Tom Horn Sr.

Many times I have wondered why Indian history is so interesting to people of today, and I believe it is because the Indians were the first inhabitants of our great North American Continent.

My story begins in the early part of the last century. According to Cherokee historians, there were several mission stations operated in the eastern Cherokee Nation, now the state of Georgia. The Brainard Mission was established in 1803 by Reverend Gidion Blackburn, who operated the mission until 1810. Mr. Blackburn was succeeded by Reverend Cyrus Kingsbury who moved the mission to a site on the Chickamauga Creek in 1817. Reverend William Chamberlain, who knew the Cherokee language, was in charge of one of the mission stations. In this school were quite a number of full-blood Cherokee boys and girls. According to the missionary himself it was on a beautiful sunshiny morning that he read to this class the "Twenty-Third Psalm".

One of the little girls, Lydia Lowrey, was a very bright and intelligent child. She seemed to take a greater interest in the Scripture lesson which was daily impressed by the Missionary. The following passage seems to have been most memorable to little Lydia. "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadith me beside the still waters". After the lesson was finished, Lydia made her way out into the surrounding forest wandering on until she came to a creek. At the bank of the creek she stopped. After awhile she sat down beneath the shade of a tree, all the time thinking of the words of the Psalm she had recently heard, and repeating them till she fell asleep. How long her slumber lasted, she never could tell, but while asleep she had a wonderful dream. A vast number of Cherokee people were congregated beneath the trees of the forest. They were seated in a semi-circle, and in their midst standing was a "Bright and Wondrous Being" who gave praise to the "Great Spirit". The entire congregation joined him in repeating the words of the song in the Cherokee language. The services continued for sometime. The sleeper awoke, but she saw no "Wonderful Being", no crowd of her countrymen. Nothing but the trees and birds of the forest. With the dream on her mind she made her way back to the mission station, where she sought the minister and told him her dream. Reverend Chamberlain requested her to repeat the exact words as she had heard them in her dream. She repeated them in her native tongue as follows:

God and I are friends,
I will not be afraid of him,
Though the world be against me,
I will still be confident.