The first principal of the school at the Mission was Miss Gurnsey from Mt. Holyoke Seminary. She was later joined by Miss Florine Caleb, who had taught at Park Hill's Cherokee Female Seminary. She taught the first, second and third grades, in addition to music. She organized a choir of twelve Indian boys who sang in both English and Cherokee. In letters written in 1890, she mentioned many of the problems attendant to early day schools. Language was of course one of the problems. Later she wrote of teacher-student relationships, mentioning that the children gave the teachers Indian names: Miss Gurnsey was known as Qua-i-yohn, and Miss Caleb was called Mo-sti. She wrote that they had three kinds of children at the school: White renters' children, half breeds, and full bloods. Miss Gurnsey wrote that she had the help of a little Cherokee girl as an interpreter. She acted out and read to the Cherokees what had been presented in English. On one occasion a little Cherokee boy was shown a picture of a rat in a book and was asked to use the wooden pointer to indicate the rat. He stood there confused among his classmates. Then suddenly he began to beat on a little girl whose name was Riny Ratt.

The teachers saw the need for enlarging the mission by providing facilities for boarding the students. Many of the students walked miles each day to attend school. The parent church discouraged the idea, but did give permission to erect a small home provided she could raise the money. Her efforts were rewarded with the realization of a home to accodomate eight girls, a matron, as well as adjoining teachers quarters in 1893. Mrs. Sarah Mahhis wasthe