

From: "Review News", Vol. 11, No. 3, Jan. 1965

JULIA A. JORDAN

An Indian Pastor's Tribute to His Wife

By Rev. Guy Quoetone

Nannie Susan Sahmount was the daughter of Princess, Virginia Stumbling Bear. She was born in 1893, about 4 miles north of Mt. Scott, on Medicine Creek, at the Stumbling Bear camp, who was the Principal of the Kawas, he (Stumbling Bear) was one that made and signed the Peace Treaty in 1867, known as the Medicine Lodge Peace Treaty. After signing treaty Stumbling Bear sent his Daughter Virginia to school at Ft. Sill under government supervision. Later to Carlisle Penn. she came home married Luther Sahmount. She volunteered to help educate the Indians and ~~civilize them~~ later when the Missionaries came accepted the Christian Religion. She and husband work among the tribes help to establish the Mt. Scott church with J.J. Methvin after starting a Mission School near Anadarko. Nannie entered when she was about 7 or 8 years old during the summer camp meetings she would be found on the creek at the swimming pool or other play grounds with a big crowd of children teaching them songs and telling Bible stories what she learn while in school.

Nannie was a good singer often she sang solos for the School programs after leaving school June 1908 she married to Guy Quoetone August 3, 1908 who also is of the Methvin Institute. After a few years attending the Mt. Scott Mission the Oklahoma Conference decided to abandon the Mission property. With the help of Rev. Orlando Shay, Sup't. of the Indian Mission, Nannie and her husband Guy Quoetone carried on the work of the church he acting Sup't. of Sunday School and she teaching for several years till it was revived at a meeting of Annual Mission Conference at Salt Creek in Eastern Oklahoma. A Delegation was sent compose of Jimmie Quoetone and late Tayanon Topi, made a plea for a pastor which was granted it seems the Lord was calling Labors to go into the field. Guy Quoetone was granted license to Preach in 1922 at Hebart Annual Conference under Bishop Moore.

They have been in Mission work ever since. They were assigned in the Comanche field near Fletcher which was closed in 1900. No Church buildings no members.

They moved into a tent on a creek left home 35 miles. She suffered much with the children in a tent that did not turn water when it rains it was hard to live and carry on the work for \$20.00 a month and not complain yet the Lord bless the work often we would come to some home they would find excuse and leave yet we gain few members till at last with the help of Dr. Perry and Sup't. W.U. Witt secured \$1,000.00 and work donated by members erected a modern Church about 28 X 36, with seats and good lights.²

She was happy she did suffered in cold to get the Lord work done. She done work at other places, this last year was appointed work in the new Comanche Mission near Medicine Park Okla. Small box house dirt floors dusty and cold not parsonage she camp with children. Often we out till late hours coming home from prayer meeting with an old car sometimes mud and trouble. We succeeded in putting a floor in the small church. Her last service was to feed all who came to church. Easter she taken seriously sick that night 22 April took her to the hospital operated on the 7th of May 1935 10 till 12:30. She died praising the Lord saying Thank you Jesus, Thank you Jesus, which words still linger with the husband. She has 2 daughters, Helen Quoetone 26 years Wynema Quoetone 11 years, and 4 boys Walter 20, Hurley 18, Allen 9 and Charles Raymond 13 months. She was President of the Woman's Missionary Society. She had pledged her life to the Master work which was carried on the ~~last day~~. May God touch the hearts of some of his people that a church may be established at this mission the husband covet you prayers that the Lords will be done—

(1) Editors note. (The Editors have the original copy of the above story written in Guy Quoetone's own handwriting, many years ago. From him we secured permission to publish it. The story was written not long after his wife's passing, and the pathetic eulogy is so aptly expressed in his own words, that we have not changed it.)

(2) The church building here referred to was the Little Washita Indian Methodist Church, 4 miles northeast of Fletcher, Oklahoma. It is still in regular use.

(3) This Church, which is still operating is known as The Mount Scott Comanche Methodist Church. It is 5 miles northeast of Medicine Park, Oklahoma.

Ed. Notes: The Methvin Institute mentioned in the article was established by Rev. J.J. Methvin, under the auspices of the Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at Anadarko, Oklahoma, in 1890. Rev. Methvin came to Anadarko in 1887. The Carlisle Pennsylvania School, mentioned was established by Gen. R.H. Pratt in 1879 as the first Government non-reservation school for Indians. It was very successful for many years.