

McCOMBS, ALICE

INTERVIEW

7370

230

INTERVIEWER MARGARET McGUIRE
Indian-Pioneer History S-149
July 22, 1937.

INTERVIEW WITH ALICE MCCOMBS

The Eufaula boarding school that is here now was, at one time, the Asbury Labor Training School for Boys and Girls. I went to school there, when I was a girl. This school was first supported by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. At a conference held at Columbia, Alabama, in January, 1821, Rev. Williams Capers was appointed Missionary to the Creek Indians, and in 1822, he entered into an agreement with the head Chief of the Creek Nation, authorizing the establishment of a school for the benefit of the young people. This school was named Asbury Labor Training School, and was located near the Chattahoochee River, near where Columbia, Alabama, now is. About 1830, the school was abandoned, because of the removal of the Creeks to their new reservation west of the Mississippi River.

In 1844, at Indian Mission Conference Rev. William H. Goade, who had been appointed by the Methodist Church

2

to enter into contracts with different tribes of Indians living in the Territory, established the Asbury Labor Training School in the west. This school was built in the Creek Territory, near which was the old North Fork Town, located on the south side of the North Fork of the Canadian River. This was established in 1847. They first taught in little log huts near where the school was built, but the building was completed in 1849. It was three stories high, had thirty-one rooms, besides the halls, and would accommodate one hundred children, the Superintendent and teachers.

The material used in this construction was shipped to Memphis, Tennessee, by boat; then to Sebbers Falls, on the Arkansas River, and then hauled by team to the site where the building was put up. The cost of the building, including transportation and labor was about nine or ten thousand dollars.

The Government furnished about five thousand and the Methodist Missionary Board was to pay the remainder.

MCCOMBS, ALICE, INTERVIEW.

#7370

3

The Government appropriated for the farming supplies, shop tools, horses, cows, wagons, and two yoke of oxen, and a bunch of stock cattle. Some of the teachers who taught in the schools were Miss Harton, Miss Collins, Dr. Harvey Lindsay, also his daughters. Rev. Theodore F. Brewer taught during 1878 and 1879. Rev. T. B. Ruble was first Superintendent, that was in 1847; Rev. J. M. Garner, was Superintendent in 1851; T. B. Ruble returned and served for about nine years; Rev. Thomas Burthal was Superintendent from 1859 to 1868; then T. B. Ruble served again until 1870; Rev. John Harrill served for one year, in 1871; then Rev. David T. Holmes served two years. Rev. Young Ewing served one year; Rev. John Merrill came back in 1875; then Rev. H. B. Greenhouse was there for one term. In 1879, W. M. Martin, a layman, was there for one year. J. T. Thompson, in 1880, served three years; Young Ewing again, 1883. Rev. E. R. Shafford was the last in the school. The school burned down about 1889, or 1890. Some of the children were sent home and some were moved to the home of Judge Stidham near the school, where they

McCOMBES, ALICE, INTERVIEW.

#7370

4

stayed for the remainder of the term. Then the school was entirely disbanded; the Indians were without a school for about two years, and in 1892, the school was built where it now stands and was the Eufaula High School for several years.
