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4-16-37

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Dear Mr. Foreman:

You can see. I have been disapointed. But hope you will have patience and I am sure Aunt Flossie will see you, and the pictures my mother has are packed. I will send them to you and hope you will wait for them. These cards are from my mother. The note is from Aunt Flossie.

Respt.

Mrs. O. O. Brannon.

April 13, 1937

My precious Girlie:

It is another beautiful day almost summer weather. Is it getting warm there? I thought pernaps I would not have to wear my winter suit after all.

We have certanly missed your letters, but I know you thought I was on the way to you. Well here is hoping I will soon be on the way now. Do write Grace any way because she goes to the mail box twice a day, so do write. All love.

Mother & Grace.

From Mrs O. O. Brannon
Tusley Okla

My Dear Lucille:

I have sent Mr. Foreman some facts re: Life of my Mother and Father. If your mother wants to send any personal history of the grandchildren that will be all right if it is required.

I think it better to have one person handle these details and your mother has in a way put that in my hands. I may come down to Okla around the 22th of April. I am asked to go to Muskogee in a car with a friend in Boulder. I may not be able to stand the trip but I want to come if I can. We had been expecting your mother since Wednesday. I inclose her card.

A great deal of love to you my dear.

From Aunt Flossie.

Mr. Foreman:

Please compare the fact Aunt Flossie had sent you, before using Mrs. Walker information. Note she intends to be in Muskogee about the 22nd. Please copy and return to me.

Respt. Mrs. O. C. Brannon
Turléy, Okla
Lucille S. Brannon.

BRANNON, LUCILE S. CHEROKEE NATIONAL FEMALE SEMINARY

National Fem. Sem. destroyed by fire April 10, 1887³³²
Rebuilt began Nov. 3, 1887.
Completed April 18, 1889.

S. S. Stephens first Superintendent.

The old Female Seminary was destroyed by fire, when Judge Tim Walker was Superintendent in April 10th 1887.

The New Female Seminary was built in north Asheville, began in Nov, 3rd 1887. Completed in April 18th 1889. A modern brick building on a lovely site supplied with water from The "Big Spring" with steam heat and inside toilet. The pride of the Cherokee Nation, where were gathered 250 Cherokee girls, and looking about for the right man, to Superintend this beautiful high-class institution of learning--Spencer Stephens was chosen when given an appropriation to select the proper appointments for the school Uncle Spencer went to St. Louis and among other things selected real linen table cloths & napkins, and silver dish and knives & forks for the 14 long tables in the dining room. Some complained that he was spending the nations money needlessly, he told them, That young ladies of the best families demanded the best; But politics put him out after that 1st term as Superintendent. There is a tablet in the entrance hall perpetuating his memory, and educational efforts.

He was an ideal Superintendent. I remember when passing through the halls, he found pencil marks on the wall, going up the back stairs and he called Miss Bushyhead's attention to it, and told her to find the culprit and make her scrub the marks off, and another time when he went to Aunt Sarah's room on the 2nd floor, he found greasy finger marks around the knob, he called Aunt Sarah, and told her to scrub around the knob. He was so alert that everything was just right; Every employee was required to bring in their orders for supplies for the day, to his desk by 9 o'clock in the morning, and he ordered needed supplies for the day.

Sarah Hicks Stephens

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Sarah Hicks was partly educated in old Dwight. The 1st mission school in the bounds of the Cherokee nation, and a continuation of the school 1st started in Brainerd Tenn in the old Cherokee Nation, and as soon as Park Hill was established in 1836 she came there and lived in the mission family learning the arts of a Christian life and home maker. As soon as the National Cherokee schools were in operation she began teaching and when in 1850 The Female Seminary was opened she entered and was graduated with the 1st class as valedictorian.

I do not remember that Uncle S who came to the nation as an orphan boy and was partly raised by the Bushyhead family living near the Arkansas line in "Union" neighborhood, and where he died, coming to young Dennis Bushyhead's after a long ride complained of being cold. There was a big fire in the fireplace and he sat by the fire, later lying down he called for more cover, but in the morning he was gone. His son Spencer after getting the word in his country home near Claremore Okla went for the body having a time getting possession having to go to Ft. Smith to get a Dr. to pronounce on his death to obtain a certificate. Then the body was bracket by way of Fort Smith and finally was placed in the National Cemetery in Fort Gibson where a stone marks his resting place.

Aunt S. also died of cancer at the home of her son Spencer. The mysterious malady that puzzled her Physician. Her tongue swelling and choking her to death (in the year) (you probably know the date)

My first knowledge of Uncle Spencer was his marriage to Sarah R. Hicks at or near Park Hill, Cherokee Nation. My Grandfather, Rev Samuel A. Worcester so long a Missionary, educator and Minister to the Cherokees first, at Brainard, Tenn and later at Park Hill, where he built a mission school, created a printing office, and there printed the Bible, Hymns and tracts, also taught the pupils in the school as well as classes in every District of the Cherokee Nation, to sing by note. Grandpa Worcester died in April 1859 at Park Hill, and shortly before his death he sold the Mission building to my father Abijah Hicks, who with his wife Hannah (Worcester) took care of him during his declining years, and had moved from our home a mile away to come for Grandfather.

After we moved from the "Burnet Place" so called, because while Uncle S. and Aunt Sarah were living in our house the "Pin Indians" set fire to the place and burned it down. Thinking Uncle Spencer was a southern sympathizer and that he owned the house, instead of my father. But that too, was a terrible mistake since Uncle S and Aunt Sarah, went to Baxter Springs, Kansas, with a refugee train out from Fort Gibson just before the breaking out of hostilities, in the Cherokee Nation, previous to the Civil War, and where with Col. Wm A. Phillips of Selina Kansas who afterwards mustered his regiment of the "flower" of the Cherokee Nation first families, into the Indian Home Guards stationed at Fort Gibson during the war, and Uncle S. was an officer either Lieut, or Captain in Col. Phillips regiment and was thus entitled to burial in the National Cemetery at this place in the "Officers circle" under the Stars and Stripes.

While they lived in Kansas the tragedy of their young married life happened in the death of their little daughter Delia, from strychnine administered by a drunken Dr. and also an infant son Chester died there.

Upon returning to the Nation, Aunt Sarah and Aunt Nan lived at the mission at Park Hill while Uncle Spencer was training for war duty. When he was given quarters in the stone Barracks on Garrison Hill in Ft. Gibson and there my sister Emma and I spent the night with Aunt Sarah there inside the fortifications having come from Park Hill with "Swiss Frank" as we called him who had come along and stopped with another for a season until he found a way to get out of the fighting Territory, and where we had to come to Fort Gibson team to get provisions as all stores, churches, schools and homes were abandoned at that time.

Soldiers met us out at the site of the "National cemetery" where ordilies were grazing the horses and mules from the Garrison and told us to hurry in as the "Sesech" were making a raid from Fort Paris across the Arkansas river to drive off the stock, and we galloped the tired oxen into the Fort instanter, and escaped the conflict inside the fortifications.

After peace was made I remember Uncle Spencer lived again in Fort Gibson and there taught a private school in one of the abandoned officers quarters in the old town and we three older children Percy, Emma and Edith attended. I never forgot his wonderful stories at the opening of school telling us something unusual. Once about a "Bread fruit tree" where it grew, and how discovered for food and starting things to make us think.

One of his incentives to get us to learn spelling was a Mexican silver dollar with a hole in it, and a blue ribbon strung through and the one who got the most head marks through the week got to wear the medal home on Friday night, and until Monday morning cause when the contest went on again we almost studied our heads off but I seldom got to wear the dollar because there were so many big scholars and excellent spellers. I would never get head of the class since I was about the smallest scholar.

As soon as peace was declared and homes were again being occupied it was not long before the National public schools were opened and Uncle Spencer and Aunt Sarah were both employed as teachers in them. Uncle Spencer was such an outstanding educator. He was made Superintendent of schools in the Cherokee Nation and held that position for years. Aunt Sarah too, taught in the public schools at Tahlequah, first afterwards in Vinita, and lastly in or near Claremore, Okla. I remember Uncle S. giving her highest praise saying "Sarah is a better mathematician than I" both were in school work during their entire life.

After his wife's death, Uncle S. seemed lost and traveled about over the nation in his buggy visiting old friends but never satisfied for long.