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Miss Ella Robinson,
Research Field Worker,
June 21, 1937.

Asbury Mission Commencement
July 3, 1878

Story given by
Mrs. Eck E. Brook
Muskogee, Oklahoma
to
Miss Ella Robinson

Two miles east of Eufaula, Creek Nation, in sight of the MK&T Railroad, was located Asbury Mission, a Manual Labor School for Creek Indian boys.

The approach to the school grounds led through a beautiful timbered glade. A wide lane separated the large fields of corn, wheat and oats. Near the house were large, well-cultivated gardens that furnished an abundance of vegetables for the tables.

The main building was a brick three story structure in a grove of forest trees, facing east. Accommodations for eighty boys were provided.

Mr. W. N. Martin was Superintendent of the school and was assisted by a competent corp of teachers, including Professor R. C. McGee and Miss L. E. Harrell, a sister of one of the Indian Territory's pioneer preachers.

For this especial occasion the school rooms had taken on a gala appearance. The pillars in the corridors were twined with Evergreens and spring flowers were in profusion

throughout the house. The word "welcome" was formed in Evergreen above the door of the auditorium.

A charming view toward the east could be had from the upper windows overlooking the entire fields.

The Commencement exercises opened at nine A.M., July 3, 1878, with scripture readings and a song, "Happy Greetings," followed by examination of classes. The result showed exceptionally fine work on the part of both students and teachers.

The system of written spelling was believed to be the best that could be adopted.

Classes in history, Latin and mathematics showed marked advancement. The opinion of the governing body expressed was that the progress made by the school equaled that of any school of its grade in the states. So pleased were the Board of Directors with the management and system, that the establishment of still another school would be recommended as soon as the funds of the Nation would warrant. Also, the establishment of an Orphan's Asylum, modeled after the Cherokee Orphanage.

The amount of work done by the boys was worthy of special notice. Under the careful supervision of Mr. Martin

they had planted and cultivated fifty acres of corn, twenty acres of wheat, fifteen acres of oats and two acres of sugar cane. In the vegetable garden were two acres of sweet potatoes, two of Irish potatoes and two acres of garden vegetables.

The increased interest in the school, especially by the full-bloods, was manifested by their attendance at the Commencement. Among the prominent visitors were: Reverend Young Ewing, presiding elder in the Methodist Church, residing at Evansville, Arkansas; Reverend T. F. Brewer, also of the Arkansas Conference; Reverend W. S. Robertson, Superintendent of Tullahassee Mission; Reverend John McIntosh, Supreme Judge of the Creek Nation; District Judge Chowe Colbert; Ex-Judge Lee Campeer; Solicitor March Thompson; Honorable Roley McIntosh; Washington Kannard; Yo-Ho Fixico, member of the Creek Council; No-Ko-Se E-Nath-ler; Reverend J. C. Perryman; Judge George W. Stidham; Joseph M. Coodey; Samuel Grayson; Shelton Smith; D. B. Whitlow; William Crabtree; William Fisher; Dr. J. H. Bailey; George Fisher; G. A. Alexander; Fount Crabtree and the usual number of ladies and children.

Teachers from other schools in the Nation were in

attendance and were particularly interested in the primary work.

Reverend William McCombs, Superintendent of Instruction in the Creek Nation, addressed the school in the Creek language; followed by Judge Stidham and James Colbert, also speaking in the Creek language.

A hearty welcome was extended to all visitors and an excellent dinner was served. Everyone being invited to participate.