



Billie Byrd,
Investigator,
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An Interview with Mr. Martin Goat,
Tulsa-town (tulwa), Holdenville,
Oklahoma.

When I was a student in the Wetumka Mission, east of the present Wetumka, in 1897 and 1898, the school had already progressed and had become advanced along in the school work towards bringing the Indian children into higher civilization. The Indians wanting the children to have a part in and among their own people and tribe or to take up some study to have a better vision of facing a life that was to be theirs when they left school.

The different students were shown and taught how to take care of the school, their dormitories, and their personal appearance before the people was more stressed.

A boy was picked out to work in the dining room, laundry and other departments of the school; everyone had to be working and no one was ever left idle. The different boys and girls were placed at different times at the head of the different departments of the school such as work in

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the laundry, kitchen, dining room, ^{for girls} while the boys were sent to work on the farm, planting and gathering whatever had been planted, corn, wheat and feed. All this was under way and had already advanced to a better stage when I was there.

They raised their own hogs, feeding them from the produce of the school farm and then killing them in the fall for school use but the beef was bought. It was issued out from Eufaula as were the clothes for boys and girls. I don't know what the girls received but the boys received overalls, jumper, shoes and underclothes. These were issued twice a year with the tribal government paying for the articles and for the school.

My first year, I was detailed to have charge of the Percheron stallion they had there for special purpose--that of breeding. All I had to do was to water him and feed him and then turn him out of the lot and let him run awhile and put him back into his pen.

Later, I was transferred to another kind of feeding. I had to feed the boiler and keep the boiler always full

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with water. I was transferred back to the school because a doctor had made a false report on me by saying that I was treating the stallion too rough by throwing rocks at him and giving him a beating, but I was never guilty of the charges. I had to take it and go on, for if anyone tried to explain matters by speaking up for himself he was accused of back-talk and was given a whipping for punishment. They then moved me from the boiler to making fires for the girls in the laundry and then on back down to the barn. where all I had to do was to water the cows.

Even though I was changed to all these different kinds of vocations, I never did master any trade of any kind, but was called into an unlooked for profession as a minister of the Gospel. I have been ordained as minister of the Baptist church for twenty years and have even made a missionary trip to the Seminoles in Florida, making ordinations with the other churches in the establishing a church there.

The teacher, at least the one I went to at the Wetumka Mission was Lena Benson, now Tiger, who was the wife of the deceased Reverend Johnson E. Tiger, son of Motey

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Tiger, one time Chief of the Muskogee-Creeks. She is now an active worker and leader of the women's missionary church work among the Methodist women.

She also taught Sunday School there at Wetumka Mission and Colonel Robinson was the superintendent there at that time. Colonel Robinson was a leader of the Confederate contingent of Indian soldiers at the time of Civil War and was a Lighthorseman about 1861.

This was the way I spent my 1897 and 1898 school years at the Wetumka Mission.