

The First Baptist Church
Built by the Delaware Indians after
they came to the Indian Territory in
the early days, as told by Rev. G. C.
Wilson.

Written by Alfred T. Hicks,
field worker S-149, Nowata Co.
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This Church was built soon after the Indians came to the Indian Territory (Delaware Indians that came here from up in Kansas). About one of the first things they did was to build a Church house, and this Church was built in the Year of 1867 1/2 Mile North and 1/4 Miles east of Alluwe, Oklahoma in Nowata County. It was built of Walnut Logs and the Pews were all hand made, and they were of the very best that could be made. They were made by a man by the name of William Adams.

The Plans for the building were also drawn up by the same man, Mr. Adams. There were three men who built the Church, Mr. Adams, Thompson Smith and John Kenney were the carpenters that did all the work.

Charles Journeycake was the first preacher that preached in the Church. He would preach altogether in the Indian Language but as the white

people got to coming out, he soon moved to have an inter-
 preter. A man in the name of William Adams acted for him.
 It would take from two to four or half hours to preach a
 sermon, for it took some time to interpret the sermon
 as it would take some time to be understood. He could
 have some women, but they were not very many.
 and ever. There were some men and women, but they were
 and it would not be long before the people would
 come all the way from the end of the line, across the
 District, a distance of about 100 miles, to go to these
 meetings. The work started in the fall of 1840. The meeting
 was to start and the women had to go to the meeting
 near for next that would be used during the meeting. The
 first thing they would do when they got to the camp
 grounds was to divide the land up into lots of those
 that did not have any more, and then they had left that
 would put it up in this series of poles. If no poles to
 let the sun dry it out. The land was the best could keep
 for a long time. As time went on, this church began to
 branch out, they built three more churches after this.
 The first one to be built was at Silver Lake a place 31/2
 miles South East of what is now Bartlesville, Oklahoma, it
 was called the Silver Lake Church.

The people in the District of Bartlesville and Caney River did not have so far to go to Church, and when the people there had their camp meetings, the people from the Illuwa District would all go over there; also hunt on their way, so that they could have plenty of Deer meat to last through the meeting.

The next Church to be built was at Post Oak, a place 2 miles North of Dewey, Oklahoma. It was named the Post Oak Church. Now this Church did not grow very fast, due to the fact that the people in this district still wanted to worship God in their own way, by having camp Dances, and this church soon was abandoned.

Now the third church to be built was at a place called Komma switch 5 miles north of what is now Nowata, Oklahoma, it was just a switch on the MOF Railroad, but now the name has been changed to Delaware, Oklahoma and this church is still active today. A man by the name of John Marcouxie was called to preach at this place. He was a preacher that could preach in both English and the Delaware language; it always took him about 2 hours to the sermon; and the people would all stay in the church house till he finished his sermons, and I think I am safe in saying that is more than most of the people of today would do.

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While Rev. Sarcoxie was preaching at Delaware there were three young men set aside for preachers, Jobe Thomas, J. C. Wilson and Rubin Sarcoxie. Rubin Sarcoxie was a son of Rev. Sarcoxie. Out of the three, J. C. Wilson was the only one that was ever made an ordained minister, in fact he is the only living Delaware Indian minister today. He lives at Nowata Oklahoma during the winter months and at his home in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in the summer months.

After Rev. Sarcoxie stopped preaching at the Delaware church J. C. Wilson was called by the church to be their regular minister. This place he held for several years, and today he is a regular attendant at the church while he is in Nowata. The other two men that were set aside to preach, one of them is dead, Jobe Thomas is dead, but Rubin Sarcoxie still lives here in Nowata, Oklahoma.

The Delaware Baptist Church and the Silver Lake Church are still in existence today, only they have been moved and repaired, but they are still within a mile and a half of the original site.

Charles Journeycake, our preacher, was also the last Chief the Delaware Indians had. He was replaced by five men by the Government.

These men's names were, John Sarcoxie, John Secondine, Henry Armstrong, John Young and George Bullett. They were appointed in the year of 1905.

There are still a few Delawares up in the Dewey Okla. District that still have a Chief, but he is not recognized by the Government.

The Indians in those days had to have their fun. I well remember the joke a man by the name of Norman Everett played on a bunch of boys at one of our Camp Meetings, Mr. Everett lived in the Alluwe District, and on one of his trips to a camp meeting, he killed a Deer, and when he had sliced some of the meat and put it out on the poles to dry some of the boys stole it. Mr. Everett did not say anything about it, but the next time he came over, he killed a wolf on the trip. He skinned this wolf and cut it up just like he would a deer and hung the meat out, and that very night it was taken; so the next morning the first thing he did was to hang the hide out on the poles where the meat was and then told some of the old men about some one taking his meat; then he told them it was wolf meat. There were several boys around there and they all began to spit, and that was the way he had in finding out who had stole his meat.