

GREENE, HAZEL B.

GOODLAND ORPHANAGE.

13192

480

GREENE, HAZEL B.

GOODLAND ORPHANAGE.

13192

Hazel B. Greene,  
Journalist,  
March 11, 1938.

GOODLAND ORPHANAGE,  
Goodland, Oklahoma.

In 1901 there was at Goodland a frame church building and a frame schoolhouse and a story and a half log boarding house for Indian Orphans who had no home, other than at Goodland. The Goodland Orphanage was supported by the Presbyterian church then, or at least partly so. Some Presbyterian churches would assume the responsibility of an orphan, that is an orphan for each church and there was probably some aid from the Government. By the term of 1902-1903 the school had outgrown the little schoolhouse and classes were held for the larger pupils in the church and the little children were taught in the schoolhouse. Many of them were day pupils, though a good many were given homes there and some of them had no other home. About fifteen boys and girls were still at the boarding school in July of 1903 when the lady who kept the boarding house was taken sick and died on July 15, 1903. This lady had had charge of the boarding house for a couple of years. The Fall term would begin her third year. She was the

GREENE, HAZEL E.

GOODLAND ORPHANAGE

13192

-2-

estranged wife of old Jacob Jackson who had for many years been Secretary of the Choctaw Nation. Her name was Lucretia Jackson. The Reverend Silas Bacon was the Superintendent.

Today at Goodland Orphanage, about three miles southwest of Hugo in Choctaw County, is a handsome brick Administration building, combined with the dining room and kitchen, with a dormitory for the Junior girls above. Immediately south of that is Junior boys grade school, with a dormitory above in a frame building and immediately east of that building is the Senior boys dormitory and east of that is the little boys dormitory. Now that building was sponsored by the business men of Hugo and was built in 1924. The corner stone was laid by the Lions' Club.

All of these big buildings face an immense yard, or lawn, with concrete walks winding around over it and they are all two story too. East of the little boys dormitory is the High school building, and the library and back of the little boys' dormitory is a cottage which is the residence of the Superintendent of the school. Near it is the waterworks system and electric pump and pressure tank. On the south and back of the High school is a three-room

GREENE, HAZEL B.

GOODLAND ORPHANAGE

13192

-3-

building made of native stone which is used for a blacksmith and carpenter shop and filling station and south of that is a fourteen car garage for the storing of the employees' cars. East of the high school is the original church building; but there has been so much repairing and remodeling done to it, that there is very little of the original building left. \$800.00 has been spent on it in the last year. East of the church is one room of the log home of one of the Choctaw Governors of the Nation, Basil LeFlore. It is called the Annie Crosset-Schooler Memorial. Here we turn north and the first building is one of native stone, 80 X 80 feet square. That is the gymnasium and auditorium. There is where they have band practice and entertainments. They have showers for those who engage in athletics. It is as modern as all of the other buildings. The next building north is a cottage which is occupied by the Reverend E. D. Miller, Superintendent of the Orphanage. Here we turn west, and arrive at the hospital which is a modern steam heated stone building. It has nine bedrooms and an operating room. A trained nurse is always in attendance and a doctor in Hugo is paid a regular salary to take

GREENE, HAZEL B.

GOODLAND ORPHANAGE

13192

-4-

care of the sick. West of the hospital is the little girls' dormitory, a two story frame building which is heated by hot air and west of that is the High school dormitory.

There are two modern poultry houses where they usually keep about three hundred and fifty white leg-horn hens. There is a modern steam laundry and in connection with that is the canning plant. They have also a plant for drying corn and fruit. South of the laundry is the cook's two-room cottage and that is almost at the back of the kitchen which completes the square of buildings. Back and west of it all is the big modern rat proof barn, in which the high bred milch cows are housed and there is in it also a grinding and mixing plant for feed. They milk about thirty cows all the time and raise their own beef, mutton, and hog meat. They raised and sold about \$2,400.00 worth of hogs this winter. They raise all of the feed for them too. The orphanage owns and cultivates a hundred and ninety acres of river bottom land. Everything on this land is modern,

GREENE, HAZEL B.      GOODLAND ORPHANAGE      13192

-5-

and they have an irrigation plant on it. They keep ten head of mules for work stock, two tractors, and they raise their hogs there. Eight years ago the Orphanage was \$30,000.00 in debt. Now they are out of debt. There are about two hundred and forty orphan children being cared for this year.

Twelve teachers, seven matrons, a secretary, and a treasurer are employed in this school. Mr. J. P. (Bella) Gibbons was treasurer until her death in December, 1937. She was succeeded by Miss Fannie Hogue. Mrs. Gibbons was Bella McCollum and was a missionary to the Indians for many years prior to her marriage to Mr. Gibbons.

There are approximately a thousand graves in Goodland cemetery which is one of the oldest burial grounds in eastern Oklahoma. In age it ranks along with Goodwater, near Frogville, in Choctaw County, and Doakville, near Fort Towson, but there are no very old tombstones in Goodland cemetery. In all I judge that there are a couple of hundred stones and markers. Hundreds of graves are crowded in the comparatively small enclosure. In digging new graves old ones are frequently dug into. This cemetery is only a

GREENE, HAZEL B. GOODLAND ORPHANAGE 13192

-6-

couple or three hundred yards north of the school buildings. The little post office of Goodland is outside the school grounds and is a hundred yards or so north of the main entrance to the grounds.

Among the oldest graves is that of Lucretia Jackson who died at Goodland in the Summer of 1903, and who was keeping the boarding house there then. Her daughter, Susan, succeeded her as cook, and was paid only \$25.00 per month and board and room. Susan has been thrice married since then but she is cooking there again and receiving \$50.00 per month now. She was Susan Bond, then Holloway, then Hall, and is now Mrs. Eli Spring. She is nearly a full blood Indian, Choctaw and Chickasaw.

Lucretia Jackson

Born December 30, 1845.

Died July 15, 1903.

At Goodland Orphanage.

\*\*\*\*\*

James F. Holloway.

July 28, 1880.

May 6, 1915.

\*\*\*\*\*

GREENE, HAZEL B.

GOODLAND ORPHANAGE

13192

-7-

These two graves are side by side, surrounded by a brick wall about four feet high covered over with a flat concrete slab about ten feet square and two markers atop of the slab announce that below are,

Perry E. Fling. M. D.

Frank Fling.

Born October 3rd, 1863.

AND

1898----1917.

Died March 16, 1919.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dr. Fling was a prominent pioneer physician of Hugo, Indian Territory .

Next are three graves in a row. The first one is enclosed by a wooden lattice-work, with a little door to it and a lock on it. It is locked, too, but outside is a tombstone which reads:

Jeremiah Scott.

June 15, 1896.

Died Feb. 22, 1918.

\*\*\*\*\*

Next is a pen of hewn logs, fitted together and covered over with riven boards. No inscription. The logs are pretty well rotted.

GREENE, HAZEL B. GOODLAND ORPHANAGE 13192

-8-

Then another lattice-work wall over one with shingle cover and the little door locked.

The one with a little tin marker which says simply.

Noah Skelton

October 11, 1936.

This inscription does not tell of the tragedy of Noah Skelton's life and death which is known to this writer. He killed several members of his family, was sent to the penitentiary for life and was pardoned, only to come home and die of tuberculosis in a few months. Ill health was the reason for the pardon.

On a large tombstone with a Masonic emblem is,

In Memory of

John Wilson.

March 4, 1827---Died Sept. 7, 1892.

The above named was the father of Willie, John, Ed and Raphael Wilson.

\*\*\*\*\*

John P.

Husband of Harriet Turnbull.

Born July 21, 1833---Died May 8, 1894.

\*\*\*\*\*

GREENE, HAZEL B. GOODLAND ORPHANAGE 13192

-9-

A hundred yards down the hill another tombstone says:

Judith M.

Wife of J. P. Turnbull.

January 5, 1840---February 4, 1868.

\*\*\*\*\*

Harriet was buried in the Doaksville cemetery. Harriet was a Willard, whose father was a Quarter-master's clerk at the old Fort Towson. He was a first cousin to the noted educator, Frances E. Willard.

\*\*\*\*\*

In Memory of

W. S. Jones.

Died Feb. 9, 1899.

Born Jan. 1859.

Erected by his loving nephew.

G. B. Jones.

W. S. Jones died the day that Red River froze over hard enough so that one could drive a wagon and team across on the ice at the Arthur City crossing, according to Eli Spring, fifty-eight year old Choctaw Indian, who lives at Goodland. The above was Wilson S. Jones, Choctaw Indian.

GREENE, HAZEL B. GOODLAND ORPHANAGE 13192.

-10-

His wife lies beside him. She was a sister of Harriet  
Willard Turnbull.

Frances A. Jones.

At Rest.

Born February 18, 1849--Died Dec. 13, 1912.

\*\*\*\*\*

Elizabeth

Wife of

Robert Alison.

August 20, 1912---Age 60 years.

She was Elizabeth Rood, a missionary to the Choctaw  
Indians.

\*\*\*\*\*

On a big fine monument about 4 X 5 X 6 feet is,

Silas Loman Bacon

1862-----1922.

Leading Choctaw minister in Indian Presbytery 22 years.

Superintendent of Goodland Indian Orphanage 20 years.

Below and on the same stone.

Eliza Kaneubbe

1857-----1922.

\*\*\*\*\*

GREENE, HAZEL B.      GOODLAND ORPHANAGE      13192

-11-

His devoted consecrated wife, a faithful helpmate to her husband in all his Christian work among the Indians. During the Superintendancy of the Orphanage both freely gave their time and talents, impoverishing themselves for the needy orphans of their race.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord and their works do follow them. (All of that was on the tombstone.)

\*\*\*\*\*

Besty Pitchlynn

Died January 30, 1901.

Aged 95 Years.

She was said to be the grandmother of Silas Loman Bacon, and reared him.

\*\*\*\*\*

A Masonic Emblem

In Memory of

Ex-Governor B. L. LeFlore,

Died at Goodland, C. N.

October 15, 1886.

Age 76 Years.

\*\*\*\*\*

GREENE, HAZEL B.      GOODLAND ORPHANAGE      13192

-12-

On one small double tombstone are the epitaphs of three children of H. L. and R. G. Gooding. Two of them are each a day old. One was buried 1879, another January 1st, 1880. One, September 4, 1878.

\*\*\*\*\*

Joseph Parker Gibbons.

July 27, 1850---June 6, 1918.

Missionary to the Indians 34 years. He did no miracles, but all things he spake about Jesus were true.

(On the same stone.)

Mary L. Wife of J. P. Gibbons.

Born November 23, 1858.

Died June 23, 1900.

\*\*\*\*\*

Another stone bears this:

Bella McCollum Gibbons.

December 4, 1937.

Age 74 Years.

\*\*\*\*\*

John F. Turnbull was a full blood Choctaw Indian and was one of the leading exponents of education among

GREENE, HAZEL B.

GOODLAND ORPHANAGE

13192

-13-

the Choctaw people. I do not know where or when he attended school but it must have been in the states before the Civil War. He was well educated. He was a Presbyterian minister. After several years of teaching and preaching he served the nation as Superintendent of Public Schools. John Turnbull and his wife, Harriet Willard Turnbull, raised or partly raised nineteen children. Among them were the children of Mr. Turnbull's daughter, Minnie Turnbull Hynson. The children were Perry Hynson, (deceased) and Mrs. DeArthur Wilson, the wife of a Secret Service Operative in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. They also reared George B. Jones and many others. One was Belle, who married Johnnie Wilson, one of the prominent Choctaw Wilson brothers. The home of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Gibbons is on the campus at Goodland.