

RYAN, LENORA.

NEW-HOPE MANUSCRIPT.

4989 327

Manuscript
(Copied verbatim)

Composition written in 1891 by
Lenora Ryan age 13- Choctaw Indian
Student in New Hope Seminary
Sculleyville, Oklahoma.

~~Ida A. Merwin-Field Worker~~
Indian Pioneer History S-149
July 23, 1937.

3 pages.

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Ida A Merwin
Interviewer
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From a composition written in 1891 by Lenora
Ryan age 13 -(Choctaw Indian) Student in New Hope
Seminary - Scullyville, Indian Ter.

New Hope

New Hope Seminary is a school for the education
of the Choctaw girls, It is situated in the north east
corner of the Choctaw Nation about fifteen miles south
west of Fort Smith Ark. between two large rivers the
Arkansas on one side and the Poteau on the other.

The Seminary is situated on a hill and beautifully
surrounded by forest trees and mountains. Down the hill
north of the Sem. is a spring which supplies the
institution with water.

Near the spring is the wash-house. The ironing
is near the school building. The hospital a little
farther away; it was a school room, a hospital for the
soldiers and after that a stable and now it is used as
a hospital for the sick girls.

The dining room and the Supt. room are near the
hospital.

New Hope was established in the year 1843, it is now forty eight years old.

The first Supt. after they took girls was Dr. Meaks. New Hope then was a shabby looking old place.

There is a room above the hospital which is used as a sewing room.

There were fifty-three girls that attended school then till 1833 then a hundred and three girls were admitted.

The present school building was built in the year of 1834. The chapel is a large room in the west part of the building. This is where meetings, Sunday Schools, prayer meetings and litteries are held. The chapel is also used for a school room besides this there are two other school rooms.

Rev. W. H. Goode and Rev H. Benson two methodist ministers were sent to the Ter. from Indiana in the year of 1843 they came fifteen hundred miles by water. They came up the Ark. and landed at Ft. Coffee an old deserted fort.

Mr. Benson brought a German family with him. That evening after their landing they had prayer

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meeting and sang a beautiful hymn. Then slept on the ground. In the morning they went to the old building which was almost rotted down. Repairs began and after a few months the ground and old fort were in good order and school was opened. It was called Fort Coffee Academy Rev. W. H. Goode was appointed superintendant and Rev. Henry Benson the first teacher, this was a school for boys but went down after the war. While New Hope a seminary for girls has been improving all the time until it is a very good school, I like to go to school at N. H.

Written by

Lenora Ryan

age 13. Born 1877