

Tacoma, Wn.
Jan. 16th, 1917Mr. Sam. T. Walker
Forest Grove, Oregon

My dear sir:-

I just received a letter from Mrs. L. C. Walker of Lincoln, Nebr., asking me to give you data regarding the starting of the Forest Grove Indian school. We remember you best as our Sunday-school superintendent. It was Feb. 25th, 1880, headed by Capt. M. C. Wilkinson we eighteen pioneers, four girls and fourteen boys from Tacoma, Wn., arrived at Forest Grove, Oregon, the first batch of Indians to start what is now Chemawa Indian school.

How times have changed and how vividly I remember that day when we filed into that two story structure, built in the woods, which housed the few employees as well as the few children; I brought up the rear all eyes and ears. Prof. Boynton, that dear teacher, a jack of all trades, who sang and preached so ably and later nursed us in our sickness, we all honor and respect him. Mrs. Huff, the matron, good old lady who was our mother when we were home-sick, was the other employee. Rev. Mr. Huff, minister of the old Baptist church, lived with us. This old gentleman was big of body and I believe his soul was as big; we all soon learned to love him.

On our way out from Portland to facilitate faster traveling we all pitched in and helped the fireman of the engine load 3 or 4 cords of fir wood.

Here is a list of the names, you will recall them. Chas. Ashue-# 1, Sam Ashue-#2, David Brewer-#3, Kate James-#4, Augustus Kantz-#5, Nugent Kantz-#6, Peter Kalama-#7, Jerry Meeker-#8, Annie Porter-#9, Andrew Richards-#10, Ed Richards-#11, Peter Stanup-#12, Henry Sicade-#13, Sammy Spott-#14, Julia Taylor-#15, Harry Taylor-#16, Minnie Thompson-#17, William Wilton-#18. About May, 1880, William Lear of Alaska, arrived all alone, his father having heard of the new school, sent his boy to attend; he was #19.

July of the same year, Capt. Wilkinson brought 7 boys and 6 girls from Warm Springs, Oregon. Then a small batch from Umatilla; soon after about 15 boys and girls came from Spokane; a second lot from Tacoma, a few from Chehalis and then the Alaska boys came with one girl, Sarah Dickinson. Lastly a lot from Yakima Reservation arrived.

Prof. Boynton was the only teacher then Mrs. L. C. Walker came to teach us. Later Mary Lyman came, then Miss Unthank (Minnie) then Flora Leabo came when Mrs. Walker left. Miss Chance was the last of the teachers. Mrs. Smith was the cook and later Mrs. Heaton took her place. Miss Ella McDonald was the seamstress all the time. Mrs. Buck took Mrs. Huff's place when Mr. Huff was called away.

In the latter part of 1882, Capt. Wilkinson was ordered to rejoin his regiment and Mrs. Wilkinson was put in charge temporarily. Mr. Bonney, clerk, left when the Captain left and D. C. Kelly was the next clerk. Dr. Minthorn, the scrappy quaker doctor was appointed superintendent and took charge about Jan., 1883. I well remember how the doctor would use his fists and number tens instead of reasoning with the boys. I had the gall to remind the doctor that I wanted higher education and I really expected a beating for an answer. He showed me the way out, so I never argued and that's how in Sept., 1883, I was enrolled in Tualatin Academy as a student.

Mrs. Naylor kindly let us have a tract, heavily timbered, for play grounds; we cleared it up.

The Government wanted ~~permission~~ permanent grounds for the school and that was put up to the town of Forest Grove; somebody offered a swamp tract towards Greenville; Salem offered 80 or 90 acres of land at Lake Labish, now Chemawa.

David Brewer, Indian, but was then a disciplinarian, took all the big boys over to Chamawa by easy marches to clear the new site for buildings; this was in the summer of 1883. In the fall Mr. Brewer returned leaving the boys at work; then Dr. Minthorn took all the employees over, leaving David Brewer in charge with one teacher, Miss Chance, with all the girls and little boys. In 1884 the last of the school left. I must mention the big fire which destroyed the girls' quarters, kitchen and hospital. It was either January or February, 1884, there was two feet of snow. Prof. Marsh saved the other building by climbing up the roof and holding wet blankets. His face was scorched with heat but he stayed. I often thought of that awful tolling of the college bell and how we students ran to help. All the children were at school and no one was hurt. The girls lost everything but the boys turned over their building to them and the boys slept in the woodshed, shops and barn. Lucky the baker shop did not burn so they lived on bread.

How time flies. Of the original eighteen boys and girls, all the girls, four, and three of the boys are dead. The rest have settled down and on the whole have proved useful citizens, fully as good as the average and we are doing our full share of bearing the white man's burdens. I have eight children, three boys and five girls. My oldest is now a young man, tall and straight, a typical Indian, nineteen years old this month. He is about to finish high school.

I hope I have given you the information you wanted.

With the best of regards,

I am yours truly,

Henry Sicade, Rt. 2, Tacoma, Wn.

Tacoma, Wn.

Jan. 20th, 1917

Mr. Sam T. Walker

My dear sir:-

I was greatly pleased to receive your letter today but as usual I was very busy. When I wrote you a few days ago, my time was interrupted so much I was two days writing, called away to King Co., to the court house and other places. That's my usual way and yet other people want me for this and that. I have refused many honors; for instance, to the state legislature, county commissionership and other offices. I was billed to serve as a curator to the Historical Society of our state but I am in so many other things I was forced to decline. Am a trustee of much properties without pay, those who have died had that much confidence in me so I have served their wishes.

My community has been all any man would wish as they have given me trusts without bonds, I have always advocated good rural schools so in enlarging and rebuilding our school both grade and high schools, I asked for \$20,000.00 to build it right; they came back at me and put in a big proviso, that I must as a committee of one to see that amount be spent right, and oversee the whole outfit, from start to finish. Well I did and I have some bouquets already before I die. I have much work for my race and I hold power of attorney for my tribe, trustee of property in the city limits and other work. Our Indian

school takes time and we have a church right here in my premises. I simply write to you not in boastful way, but to tell you how I am faring.

If you want to publish my letter, of course it gives me pleasure to think it merits such recognition, do as you please about it and I wish you to do as you have suggested, to change and so forth, the expressions. I did not go into much details because I knew you are well posted but give you the data as brief as possible.

Miss Minnie Unthank was the appointed teacher and Emma, her sister took her place for a short time. Minnie has been the principal of some of the largest schools in Tacoma, and is yet. Emma has not occupied such high honors. I meet them occasionally and we generally have a good visit.

Mrs. Wilkinson acted Supt. for a while and she discharged Mrs. Buck as matron, because there was talk among the busy bodies that the Captain was too friendly with Mrs. Buck. Mrs. W. came to me about it; I was the orderly and my work put me in touch with Mrs. Buck and the Captain all the time day and night. I never saw anything out of the way between them. The Captain really was the only Supt. that we could swear by as our best friend; we loved him, we honored him, we obeyed him explicitly. Dr. Minthorn was just the opposite. What you have said is all true and you have not said enough.

Col. McConville was the disciplinarian when the Dr. drove me out because I wanted to go to school; in thirteen months I only went one month to school half a day each day. He forbid me to ever enter the grounds on pain of a good licking. I walked in one day but he did not assault me as I expected and like a coward he was turned away from me. I told Col. McConville what the Dr. had said; the Col. was fighting mad, swore that if the Dr. ever laid hands on me he, the Col., would lick him so he could not walk. I often went, because I use to visit the teacher, Miss Chance, and the Dr. never bother me or even say good day. The Dr. was finally caught in a big swindling scheme to use Indian lands for his benefit and friends and Dr. Coffin, the principal teacher, was appointed Supt. in his place.

Major Bells did not take charge of the Puyallup school until the later part of 1883. Rev. M. G. Mann was the acting agent here when Capt. W. took us to Forest Grove.

In 1880 Major Bells was at Skokomish, his brother Myron was the missionary there.

Sammy Spot-#14 was none other than Sammy McCaw. Spot, his stepfather raised him and we use to call him Spot. McCaw was his real name. Yes, court-martial was ordered to correct and punish any trouble or troubles among the boys. Each sergeant had charge of so many boys. As orderly I was the "trusty" and could go any where. I wish I had time, I might have written you a better letter. I am simply mentioning these facts to remind you of the past. Some day I'll visit Chemawa at the annual reunion and I'll prepare something for them. They have asked me to visit but I could not go as I have so much to do, I passed through there when we went to fair at San Francisco.

We have reunions here and I always play big from in little pond and I enjoy those meetings as we meet old students of the '60s when the school started.

We never sit down to our banquets with less than 250. Sometimes three generations meet; these have gone through our school. It seems like olden times to write to you.

With my best wishes to you and yours,

I am yours truly,
HENRY SICADE,
R. F. D. # 2,
Tacoma, Wn.

Tacoma, Wn.
Jan. 26th, 1917

Mr. Sam T. Walker
Forest Grove, Oregon

My dear sir:-

Your letter and list received and was glad to hear from you again. I was mistaken about Minnie Thompson, now Mrs. Peter. It was her sister who died and was reported, Minnie had died. I saw her alive. We now live so scattered and all over the state we seldom see one another.

In 1899 a few of us Indians started a public school with seven pupils. In 1900 we built a donation school house of two rooms. Country was poor and not developed and the school was supported by taxes. We gave time and money for the school house. In 1904, we built a two story building, four rooms, steam heated and put up manual training quarters, with in all three teachers. In 1912 we added a hall for community doings, part of lower floor set aside for manual work and the other for domestic work for the girls. In 1914 we voted \$20,000.00 to add four more rooms, put up a heating plant, a high pressure water system with two big galvanized tanks, each holding 5000 gals., sanitary toilets, thoroughly drained the grounds and had put an artesian well flowing 25 gal. per minute, built a playhouse, a long shed on the walks between the buildings for the little folks and separate playground for the little folks, swings, etc., a tennis court for the girls and a ball ground for the boys. We parked the front of our grounds with over 1000 plants and shrubbery and we have all kinds of flowers. We have wide ~~delect~~ cement walks and the buildings lighted with electricity. We put in the latest and best seats, bookcases, cloak rooms, chairs, a laboratory for milk testing and all scientific work in that line, electric bells and fire bells. Our school has a mixed lot of children--Indians, Swiss, Italians, Germans, Swedes, Norwegians, Slavonians, Japanese and Americans. We now have a high school and will be accredited as the State Supt. has listed us right. We have now eight teachers and have about 170 scholars. We have a Supt., a principal and our melting pot has succeeded. I was the original mover and director; later I persuaded Wm. Wilton to take my place as my duties as road commissioner required a lot of time. Mr. Wilton, last spring, was elected director for the 6th term, 3 years each term. On every improvement I always had the overseeing of the work. On the last job I was given full control and for five months I spent a most enjoyablé time in my work. The valuation of our taxable properties which support our school is about \$1,500,000.00 now. Some of us Indians pay the heaviest taxes here.

I am yours truly,

HENRY SICADE.

P. S. I must add right here in my farm we also built a church, supported by us and we have over fifty children on the average attending Sunday school work.

I also put up business buildings and rented to two brothers, owning a large general merchandise stock and farm implements, etc.

We have put up a large fountain costing over \$800.00, lighted with electricity front of my buildings. At my door the P. S. E. railway set up or put a station and we have a 30-minute service, a pave road and auto stages to town, also the main electric road to Seattle is on the north line of my farm and we have that service. We have the city telephone system, electric lights and have motors to pump water and have city conveniences. H. S.

From Sam T. Walker to Dr. Bates.

Dr. Bates,

I am sending by Nellie the letters I spoke of. You can return to me when you are through with them. There seems to be but little more that is to be said.

I first met Captain Wilkinson at Astoria in the winter of 1874-75. He was at that time serving on Gen. Howard's staff as Private Sec., I think. Howard, I think, was in charge at Vancouver, Wn. They were hold a series of revival meetings. I think they held some here either before or after those at Astoria.

I am not sure whether the idea originated with Wilkinson or Howard. All of the Indian affairs at that time was placed under the supervision of the Army. Under what was known as the Grants Policy, and Agents and supts. were ranked Captain and Majors.

Mr. Sicade is mistaken is saying Forest Grove offered 80 acres of swamp land. The land was part of the A. C. Brown and Father's D. C. land and lay to the east of the Greenville road from about Will Curtis house down towards the Col. Haynes farm.

In view of the fact that the U. S. spent about \$30,000 or \$40,000 in draining Lake Labish, comment is unnecessary.

As far as I am able to know, Dr. Minthorn was sent here with the purpose of removing the school to Newberg.

Now as for the connection of Grandma Brown with the Indian School, I do not think there is the least ground for it. Dr. Honer may have gotten the idea from an essay Nellie wrotesome years ago in which she got some facts I gave her (mixed) as reporters often. This was given some publicity as the essay was published, by her teacher. Perhaps no one else aside from myself and Dr. Minthorn know the reason why the school was removed from here. I might just say that there was quite a strong sentiment among some of the townspeople and the faculty and trustees of T. A. & P. U. against it, many fearing that it would work against the University; that many persons would not send their children where they would come in contact with the Indian students.

I do not think there were any Indians in Grandma Brown's school. There were some half-breeds, I think.

P. U. ought to be proud of the work done by Mr. Sicade.

Truly yours,
S. T. WALKER.